

Howe: Najibullah should step down

NEW DELHI (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe urged Afghan President Najibullah Friday to step down in favour of a broad-based government in Kabul. He told a news conference the vast majority of world opinion wanted an end to the Soviet-backed Kabul government that Moscow has kept in place for 10 years. "The Najibullah government should step aside and make way for a fully representative government," he said. Following the final withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan last month, Howe said the Afghan people need time to establish a government acceptable to all. But he poured cold water on further United Nations involvement in the conflict, saying it was important the U.N. did not give Kabul an opportunity to regain ground lost to rebels. Both the Afghan government and the Soviet Union have urged the United Nations to post military personnel on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan were many of the Mujahadeen fighters are based. Moscow, which has repeatedly accused Pakistan of sending troops into Afghanistan to bolster Mujahadeen efforts to capture the eastern city of Jalalabad, hinted Wednesday that it wanted a stronger peacekeeping role for the U.N.

Jordan Times

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New tremor hits Armenian quake area

MOSCOW (R) — The section of Armenia devastated by an earthquake last December was shaken by a new tremor Thursday evening strong enough to destroy previously damaged buildings, TASS reported Friday. There were no casualties in Thursday's quake near Spitak, a town levelled by the December disaster, the official Soviet News Agency said. Thursday's tremor measured 7.5 on the 12-point Soviet scale, while the Dec. 7 quake measured 10 on the Soviet scale and killed over 25,000 people. Thursday's tremor struck at 8:36 p.m. local time (1536 GMT). A quake of this nature had been predicted by seismic experts, TASS said, since there had been fewer small aftershocks in the past week than typical since December. That meant energy was accumulating and likely to be released, TASS said. The epicenter was between Leninakan and Gakmaran, only 5 kilometers underground, TASS said. In the Gakmaran district, buildings damaged in the previous quake were destroyed, and 270 cattle were killed.

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U.S. congressman ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Agencies) — U.S. Congressman Wayne Owens left Amman Friday after a three-day visit during which he held talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and government officials. King Hussein and Owens Thursday discussed the efforts currently underway to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region through an international peace conference.

The audience was attended by the American Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth. Owens told the Associated Press he hoped his idea for a Middle East Development Bank might "push the peace process along" and contribute to stability and prosperity.

He said he had met enthusiastically but also the "almost unanimous judgment" you're not going to get any real cooperation between the Arab states, except for Egypt, in anything that involves Israel until you have a peace process going and probably a peace settlement.

He said funding might come from both private and public sources, possibly government-guaranteed bonds.

He conceded it would be "really tough" to find projects in the current atmosphere of tension and technical war between the Israelis and most Arabs.

But he said it might initially be aimed at projects involving informal cooperation.

He said a conference might be held later this year in the United States to help solidify the idea.

Owens also said he had proposed earmarking \$85 million in U.S. foreign grant aid to Jordan for fiscal year 1990 — a significant increase in the current aid level. He said he had found "widespread support for it."

2 tremors hit eastern part of Jordan

AMMAN (Agencies) — Two earthquakes measuring 5 and 3.7 on the Richter Scale shook the eastern parts of Jordan Friday morning, according to the Royal Scientific Society's Seismological Centre.

The first, measuring 5 degrees on the Richter Scale, was felt at 02.43 while the second was felt at 03.43 Friday morning. The earthquakes' epicentre was 160 kilometres east of Amman. However citizens felt the first quake in various parts of the country, particularly in the eastern parts.

No damage was reported as a result of both tremors.

Faisal Sayer, a seismologist at the Royal Scientific Society, told the Associated Press the main quake was centred close to Amman and lasted almost six seconds.

Sayer said the second was centred in the Wadi Sirhan area, a sparsely populated desert region near the Jordan-Saudi Arabia border.

"We consider this earthquake a less than moderate one," he said. Sayer said Friday's quake was the area's strongest since a temblor recorded at 5.1 Richter struck south of Aqaba in the Red Sea on New Year's eve 1985.

He said an earthquake of 6.2 to 7 on the Richter Scale occurs in the region on an average of every 84 years and last happened in 1927.

"Within 10 years, plus or minus, we could have another one here," he said.

The Richter Scale calculates energy released by an earthquake as measured by ground motion.

An earthquake of magnitude 4 can cause moderate damage and an earthquake measuring 5 on the scale can cause considerable damage.



Lebanese firemen fight blazing fuel tanks in east Beirut

2 commandos killed in attack on Israeli troops

BEIRUT (R) — Palestinian and Lebanese commandos claimed responsibility Friday for a joint overnight attack on Israeli soldiers in South Lebanon.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Lebanese National Resistance said in a statement their commandos ambushed Israeli troops in the south Thursday.

"Our heroes attacked an enemy unit on patrol in the area of Shihin using automatic weapons, artillery shells and hand grenades," said the statement.

The Israeli army said earlier that an army patrol killed two gunmen in a clash overnight north of an Israeli-declared security zone in South Lebanon. It said there were no Israeli casualties.

The PFLP and Lebanese Resistance said two commandos died and Israeli soldiers suffered "severe losses." The other members of the group returned safely to their base, the statement added.

It said the action was part of an attack to mark Land Day, the anniversary of the 1976 killings of six Arabs by Israeli police during protests against expropriation of Arab land in Israel.

In Damascus, a PFLP spokesman identified the dead as one PFLP fighter and a member of the Lebanese Communist Party. She said 10 Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded in the fighting.

The PFLP, led by George Habash, is a member of the PLO Central Council meeting Friday in Tunis.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will probably urge Washington during a visit next week to break off its dialogue with the PLO on the grounds it had broken its pledge to renounce terrorism.

Iraqis elect 250-member National Assembly today

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's estimated 8 million voters go to the polls Saturday to elect a new 250-member National Assembly.

Nearly 700 independent candidates, more than in two previous assembly elections, will be running in a poll that Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the ruling 9-member Revolutionary Command Council and the No. 2 figure in the Iraqi leadership, hailed as "a new starting point in the march to democracy in Iraq."

The poll is the first since the Aug. 20 cease-fire to the war with Iran and is being held amid President Hussein's new democratisation policy, aimed at establishing a multi-party system after 20 years of one-party rule by the Baath Arab Socialist Party.

However, except for two small pro-government Kurdish factions no opposition parties are running in Saturday's elections, the first since October 1984.

Diplomats and political analysts said that the outcome of the elections could influence national politics by enabling independents to play a larger role in the decision-making process.

The government declared last month that the new parties will be allowed to form after a new constitution has been drawn up and legislation for political reforms enacted.

A referendum will be held to vote on the new constitution, replacing the interim one approved in 1969, a year after the Baath Party seized power in a bloodless coup. But no date has yet been set for these reforms. The Command Council and the Baath leadership will then have

to approve the referendum result. There are more independents among the 952 candidates, many of them Gulf war veterans, than in any of the two previous parliamentary elections held since June 1980. The Baath held 183 seats in the last assembly.

Saturday has been declared a national holiday to maximise voting, scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. (0400 GMT) and close at 8 p.m.

Each of the main 950 polling centres will be supervised by a five-man election committee headed by a judge.

Officials noted poor communications and the high illiteracy rate in rural areas will mean that many voters there will not cast ballots. Voting is not mandatory.

In the last elections in October 1984, 7,171,000 votes were recorded.

The elections were originally scheduled for Aug. 30, but were postponed until March 3 after the United Nations-sponsored cease-fire in the war with Iran. They were again postponed until April 1 to "allow more independents to run."

Two hundred sixty of the candidates are Baath Party members, but party officials stressed that none was an official Baath candidate.

"They're running on their own merits," one official noted. Only 29 of the 250 members of the last National Assembly are running. Many deputies were eliminated by party caucuses from running because the Baath's grassroots sought to inject younger members into the assembly, officials reported.

Central Committee to name Arafat president

TUNIS (Agencies) — The PLO's Central Committee met Friday to endorse the nomination of Yasser Arafat as president of a provisional government of the Palestinian state.

The PLO Executive Committee nominated Arafat for the post Tuesday, subject to an endorsement by the 70-member Central Committee expected sometime during the weekend.

The PLO's supreme body, the Palestine National Council, proclaimed an independent state at its Algiers meeting last Nov. 15, but left it up to the Central Committee to establish an exile government.

There was no other candidate for the Palestinian presidency. The current session of the Executive Committee was also expected to approve the appointment of Farouk Kaddoumi as Foreign Minister of the Palestinian government in exile.

The government headed by Arafat will exercise its functions "until the Palestinian people can freely elect a government at the end of the Israeli occupation," PLO spokesman Riadh Al Hassen said.

He said the government has been recognised as the legitimate Palestinian representative by about 60 nations.

Al Hassen also said Arafat would travel to Paris at the end of April to meet President Francois Mitterrand, who has announced he would meet the PLO leader but not make public the date.

The PLO's diplomatic mission in Paris was raised to a "general representation" on French initiative at the beginning of the year.

Arafat took part in a rally organised in Tunis Thursday night to mark the "Day of the Land."

"We are not making war for war's sake," he told the crowd. "We are struggling for the political objective of our people: Establish the national authority on every part of the Palestinian territory liberated or evacuated by Israel."

Meanwhile Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said Friday the decision by Mitterrand to meet Arafat was a positive step.

Speaking to reporters after lunching with Mitterrand in Paris, Gonzalez said: "There is a pressing need to support the moderate (Palestinian) line represented by Arafat... not to do so would be an error on the part of the West."

Fire continues to blaze at Dora fuel depot

Lebanese strike in Falangist enclave over battle carnage

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival gunners skirmished with mortars in Beirut Friday, killing one man and wounding another, as a burning fuel depot spewed black clouds into the clear Mediterranean sky.

The casualties raised the toll to 126 people killed and 406 wounded since March 8, when the current round of violence pitted Gen. Michel Aoun's army units against an alliance of Syrian forces and militiamen of Druze Warlord Walid Junblat's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

Meanwhile, fires continued to blaze at Beirut's main fuel depot in the district of Dora amid fears of renewed butane gas explosions. Fire trucks poured water into the area around the clock to keep the flames from leaping into the surrounding area.

Residents of the Falangist enclave also staged a general strike to protest ferocious Syrian shelling barrages.

The strike, called by the Lebanese Front Alliance of Falangists and allies, also paralysed life in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" of South Lebanon which supports the Falangists against Syria.

The Lebanese Front, in a statement, called on the "free world to prevent the war of annihilation Syria is launching against the Lebanese people."

A police spokesman said the Falangist enclave, a 800-square-kilometre crescent-shaped strip north east of Beirut, was like a "plague-stricken area" Friday.

"Nothing moved in the streets of east Beirut and the rest of the Christian enclave except for fire engines that maintained a round-the-clock water shower on gas tanks at the blazing fuel depot in Dora to keep them cool and prevent further lethal explosions," he said.

The spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules, said civil defence teams evacuated another 100,000 people from residential areas to avoid civilian casualties in case of explosions.

That brought to about 150,000 the overall number of people evacuated since a major butane gas explosion wounded 14 people Thursday.

"Hundreds of tons of butane and other types of gas remain in tanks near the fire. The only thing anyone can do is to keep them cool and prevent the blaze from spreading to them," said the

spokesman.

Puffs of thick black smoke rose from the depot, which initially caught fire on Monday, forming a huge mushroom cloud over the city.

Butane leaking from depot tanks Thursday caught fire from Syrian rockets and exploded with a concussion that shattered glass within a five-kilometre radius.

Meanwhile, the independent daily paper An Nahar said Aoun discussed the situation in Lebanon in telephone contacts with several Arab leaders.

The paper said Aoun's cabinet was considering forming a delegation to tour Arab and foreign capitals to call for "saving Lebanon."

A Falangist source close to Aoun, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the team is to be formed early next week to "try to convince the world to pressure Syria into withdrawing its troops from Lebanon, even gradually."

Syria, with 40,000 troops deployed in predominantly Muslim areas of Lebanon under a 1976 peacekeeping mandate from the Arab League, is the main power broker in Lebanon.

Aoun and other Falangist leaders accuse the Syrians of failing to achieve their peacekeeping mandate by siding with the opposition against the Falangists in the 14-year-old civil war that has

claimed at least 130,000 lives.

Maj.-Gen. Sami Khatib, a Sunni Muslim who heads the 22,000-stroop Syrian-backed predominantly Muslim army units, said in a statement published Friday that Aoun was to be court-martialed.

Khatib, a figurehead who does not carry real weight, accused Aoun of usurping the post of prime minister and "exercising political, military and information activity that has caused divisions in popular ranks."

The Lebanese political crisis decayed sharply on Sept. 22, when President Amin Gemayel named Aoun head of an interim military cabinet to rule pending the election by parliament of a new head of state.

Syria and its Lebanese allies rejected Aoun's appointment because it violated a 1943 unwritten covenant that gave the presidency to the Sunnis, the presidency to the Maronites and the house speakership to the Shi'ites.

The present confrontation broke out March 8 when Aoun ordered a blockade of militia-run ports that siphon \$100 million annually from government ports, Syrian forces, Khatib's troops and allied militiamen responded by blockading the Falangist enclave.

The blockade of the enclave was eased Friday.

8 Palestinians shot by Israelis as U.S. urges troops to pull out of Arab cities

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops Friday shot and wounded eight Palestinians, including a 13-year-old boy from the West Bank's Fara Refugee Camp in the occupied Arab territories, Arab hospital officials said.

Three other Arabs were shot and wounded in the West Bank and a 14-year-old girl, also from Fara, suffered a broken hand when she was hit by Israeli soldiers, hospital officials said.

In the Gaza Strip four Palestinians were wounded after a clash between troops and protesters. The clashes erupted after the army eased restrictions on Palestinians, permitting traffic to resume between the West Bank and Israel and lifting a general curfew imposed on the seaside Gaza Strip.

About 180,000 Gaza residents, however, remained under curfew in six refugee camps and neighbourhoods.

Troops shot dead three Palestinians and wounded at least 38 people Thursday in the most widespread West Bank violence for several weeks. Many of the casualties were in the Hebron area.

French and American television crews filmed gun-toting Kach extremists sticking "press" signs in their transit van to cruise around the streets of Hebron.

Witnesses said settlers opened fire on relatives of wounded Palestinians outside Hebron's Alia Hospital, critically wounding 30-year-old Awad Amer in the head.

Meanwhile an official said Israel's rival leaders all support elections in the occupied lands following Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's acceptance of the idea as a step toward talks with Palestinians on an interim settlement.

Shamir, who will discuss peace plans with U.S. officials in Washington next week, wants talks with Palestinians to centre on limited self-rule for the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to newspaper reports published Friday.

"Under certain circumstances, I will not rule out elections," the daily Yediot Ahroon quoted Shamir as saying. "The character of elections should be negotiated with the Americans."

Both the elections idea and the proposals for limited self-rule are derived from the 1978 Camp David agreements between Israel and Egypt. The new element is Shamir's readiness to hold elections before self-rule is negotiated.

The PLO, which is demanding an independent state, has turned down the self-rule scheme in the past. Shamir opposes creation of

a Palestinian state and refuses to talk to the PLO, which most Palestinians accept as their political representative.

Shamir, who meets with President George Bush Thursday, is under increasing U.S. pressure to produce new peace ideas to help quell the nearly 16-month Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation. At least 415 Palestinians have died in the protests.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Shamir's acceptance of elections in the territories meant Israel's rival leaders had finally reached a consensus on how to find Palestinian negotiating partners.

Finance Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, both of the Labour Party, and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens of Shamir's right-wing Likud Bloc all support Palestinian elections.

(Shamir) is finally joining the club. It makes four of them now and here we have a consensus. This is important because it makes a positive step towards creating a dialogue with the residents of the territories," said the spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Shamir and Peres, leader of the Labour Party, still have differences on negotiating positions. Peres would accept territorial compromise to gain peace, but

Shamir said this week the plan he will take to Washington will not offer such a compromise.

In Washington, diplomatic sources said Thursday that the United States is urging Israel to withdraw some of its troops from the predominantly Arab cities of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In return, the sources said, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would be asked to slow the pace of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands and thereby create a climate conducive to peace negotiations.

"Certainly that's what they (U.S. officials) are hoping for," said an Arab diplomat familiar with the proposal.

"They are hoping that if the Israelis pull out some of their troops, then the Palestinians and the PLO would respond by saying the uprising would slow down a little bit," said the diplomat, who asked to remain anonymous.

The White House, the State Department and the Israeli embassy had no immediate comment.

Meanwhile a poll for Israel's largest peace movement indicated Friday that two-thirds of Israelis favoured talks with the PLO if it recognised the Jewish state's right to secure borders and ceased terrorist acts.

It was the largest share of support.

Fahd visit enhances Egypt's return to Arab fold

CAIRO (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Hosni Mubarak prayed together at Cairo's famous Al Azhar Mosque Friday at the climax of a four-day royal visit that set the seal on Egypt's return to the Arab fold.

"This visit will be registered in letters of light," said Al Azhar prayer leader Sheikh Nagdi Saleh, standing above the two leaders.

Mubarak and King Fahd knelt with more than a thousand other worshippers and security agents on the mosque floor.

During the first visit to Egypt by a Saudi monarch in more than a decade, King Fahd gave strong support to Mubarak's efforts to push forward the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The visit immediately preceding Mubarak's departure for Washington Saturday was expected to give him extra leverage in talks with President George Bush.

He will be closely followed to Washington by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and His Majesty King Hussein.

"President Hosni Mubarak is the best leader to represent the Arab Nation in contacts with the

outside world," Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal told reporters Friday.

King Fahd, speaking to Egyptian editors Thursday, praised Bush, who he said would work to solve the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"I have known the current American President George Bush for about 15 years and I know well that he is a far-sighted thinker," King Fahd was quoted as telling the editors.

The Saudi monarch also said he would be willing to help fund the reconstruction of an Iraqi nuclear reactor destroyed by Israeli jets in 1981. But he added that Saudi Arabia's support was for peaceful purposes only.

"Why should Israel get angry?" he said in response to a question. "Let for military uses — those in Israel or the other which we said we would help reconstruct."

Israel has neither confirmed nor denied reports that it has built nuclear bombs.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid said Friday Egypt did not accept any threats from Israel. "This is totally rejected," he said, answering a question about Israel's possible

reaction to the rebuilding of the Iraqi plant.

King Fahd received a red-carpet welcome at Al Azhar, one of Islam's most famous mosques since its founding in 970 (359 in the Muslim calendar) by North African Arabs who built the city of Cairo.

Thousands of people jammed the sides of the streets near the mosque, where all traffic was blocked for at least an hour before noon prayers.

Many in the crowd cheered the arrival of the two leaders.

A joint statement issued on the final day of the visit supported efforts to create a Palestinian state and denounced Israeli actions in the occupied areas.

"Both sides denounce the inhumane Israeli actions and their ignoring of the legitimate rights of the struggling Palestinian people," the statement said.

During his meetings in Washington next week, Mubarak will press the Arab position that peace talks must include the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and should be started under the umbrella of an international conference.

Both Prince Faisal and Abdul

Meguid welcomed the nomination of PLO leader Yasser Arafat as head of the state declared by the Palestinians last November.

Faisal told the news conference that Egypt would definitely attend the next regular Arab summit meeting.

He did not give a date for the meeting, the first to be attended by Egypt since it was ostracised by most Arab states for signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. But he said Egypt's readmission to the Arab League would be the first item on the agenda.

King Fahd and Mubarak urged calm in Lebanon, where some of the worst fighting of the 14-year civil war has erupted in the past two weeks. They praised the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and called for a complete and just settlement of the conflict.

The statement said Egypt and Saudi Arabia agreed to establish a joint committee to increase cooperation in several specific fields, including trade, transport, insurance and cultural relations.

Later Friday King Fahd left Cairo for home.

Mubarak saw King Fahd off at Cairo Airport, where the visit began Monday.



Queen Noor receives Ilizarov

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday received the Soviet orthopedic Professor Gavril Abramovich Ilizarov (left), who is currently on a working visit to Jordan, during which he will treat a number of difficult cases at Al Hussein Medical Centre. Ilizarov, who has visited Jordan several times in the past, has pioneered the method of lengthening bones without medical surgery, a method which has been named after him. Queen Noor thanked the Soviet doctor for his efforts to treat Jordanian citizens. (Petra photo)

Queen Noor praises gynaecologists efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday praised the efforts made by gynaecologists and obstetricians and highlighted their important role in protecting the health of mothers. At a meeting with participants in the first medical conference for gynaecologists and obstetricians, currently held at the Royal Cultural Centre, Queen Noor thanked the participants for their humanitarian work and described them as the front line workers for defending citizens' health. The Queen was accompanied by Health Minister Zubair Malhas, National Medical Institution Director General Dawoud Hanania, Al Hussein Medical Centre director Nael Ajloni and Jordanian Medical Association president Mamdouh Ahadi.

Participants in the conference discussed Thursday working papers on pre-natal care, complications of pregnancy, delivery and abortion, early pregnancies, the ultra sound pregnancy test in addition to other subjects.

League welcomes ACC — Al Qasem

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Thursday returned home after taking part in the 91st session of the Arab League Council, which was held in the Tunisian capital last week. Qasem also took part in the meetings of the six-member Arab ministerial committee which also met in Tunis to discuss the situation in Lebanon.



Marwan Al Qasem

In a statement upon arrival, Al Qasem said the Arab League Council has issued a resolution welcoming the formation of the two Arab gatherings, the Arab Cooperation Council and the Union of the Arab Maghreb states, considering them as advanced formulas for pan-Arab work.

On the six-member Arab ministerial committee meetings, Al Qasem said the committee has met with a number of former Lebanese presidents and prime ministers and listened to their

views regarding a solution for the Lebanese question. He pointed out that the committee has also submitted a report on its activities to the Arab League Council. Al Qasem said that the committee's work has been appreciated by the council, which has voiced its confidence in its work and called on it to pursue its efforts to find a solution that can preserve Lebanon's unity, independence and sovereignty.

Jordanian-Indian talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabba'a Thursday discussed with the Indian side to the joint Jordanian-Indian Committee meetings, currently held in Amman, scopes of cooperation in the various fields and means of increasing volume of commercial exchange and increasing Jordanian imports from India to balance trade exchange.

Tabba'a also reviewed with members of the committee's work and the steps it has taken so far to bolster economic cooperation, increase Jordanian imports from India and set up joint economic ventures.

He also discussed with the team issues pertaining to the Indian companies' contribution to implementing a number of Jordanian projects, including the Shidiq railroad, and the Wilha

Dam on the Yarmouk River. The meeting was attended by the ministry's Secretary General Mohammad Al Saqqaf, who is also head of the Jordanian side to the joint Jordanian-Indian committee meeting, and the Indian Ambassador to Jordan Gurcharan Singh.



VISIT: Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Thursday left for London on an official visit to Britain on invitation by the British defence secretary (Petra photo).

Haj Hassan hails AMBC

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khalid Al Haj Hassan Thursday voiced Jordan's support for the Arab Maritime Bridge Company and described it as the fruit of inter-Arab cooperation.

At a meeting with the company's chairman and members of the board of directors, Haj Hassan reviewed the subjects listed on the board's agenda. The AMBC made a profit of more than JD 2 million last year and transported more than 850,000 passengers and some 40 tonnes of goods between the three founding countries, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. The company's board is currently meeting in Amman to discuss the company's activities and achievements and its future plans and budget.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday received the Austrian Socialist delegation (Petra photo).

Lawzi, Khasawneh receive Austrian Socialists

Prince Hassan: PLO-U.S. dialogue very positive

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday welcomed the ongoing dialogue between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the American administration and expressed his conviction that such dialogue would lead to positive results.

Speaking at a meeting with a visiting delegation representing Austrian Socialists, Prince Hassan said that the PLO-American dialogue will contribute to accelerating the efforts for convening an international peace conference to be attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Prince Hassan stressed that Jordan's decision last year to sever legal and administrative relations with the occupied West Bank has enhanced the PLO's role in the search for a just and durable peace in the region.

The Crown Prince also welcomed the recent formation of pan-Arab economic gatherings, saying that they are aimed at giving the Arab countries more weight while dealing with the external world and at serving the public Arab interest.

Prince Hassan exchanged views with the Austrian delegation on the peace process in the Middle East.

The delegation is currently on a

fact-finding tour in the region, which will take them to Syria, as well. Earlier on Thursday Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi received the delegation and briefed them on the parliamentary life in Jordan and Jordan's role in the peace process in the region.

Lawzi stressed the need for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region and emphasised the rights of the nations of the region to a peaceful life, including the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination on their national soil.

Lawzi praised the increasingly developing relations between Jordan and Austria and stressed that Jordan holds special respect and appreciation for the Austrian president for his supportive stands of the just Arab causes, and his principled stand against

oppressive Israeli measures. Lawzi voiced hope that Europe could play a more important role in support of the sincere Arab

intentions to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

Lawzi denounced the positions of some world countries which still overlook the inhuman Israeli practices and extend support to the Jewish state.

The Israeli occupation of the West Bank has been detrimental to the democratic life in Jordan, Lawzi noted. However, Jordan has overcome this problem by inserting amendments to its constitution and parliamentary laws, whereby "we have been able to pursue the democratic work."

The head of the Austrian delegation voiced her country's belief that the explosive and fragile position in the Middle East region does not only jeopardise the region's countries but also the world peace. She added that her country supports the efforts for establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The Austrian delegation was also received Thursday by Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh who briefed them on Jordan's position vis-a-vis the Middle East question and His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to ensure the convening of an international peace conference.

Khasawneh praised Jordanian-Austrian relations and voiced Jordan's interest in further developing these ties.



Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh Thursday receives the visiting British student delegation (Petra photo).

Khasawneh, Qatanani receive British student delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Thursday received a British student delegation, currently on a visit to Jordan, by the invitation from Jordan University for Science and Technology. Also Thursday, Khasawneh received an American television crew representing the CNN television network, who conducted an interview with the minister.

The British student delegation was also received by the director

general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Palestinian Affairs Department, Ahmad Qatanani who briefed them on the development of the Palestine question. Qatanani pointed out to the political and humanitarian dimensions of the problem, saying that such dimensions have been caused by Israel's continued refusal to recognise the legitimate Palestinian rights, including the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination on their national soil. Qatanani also spoke

about the Land Day, which was marked Thursday, and stressed that the crux of the Middle East conflict is related to the land.

He exposed the methods followed by the Israeli authorities to evict the Palestinian people from their homeland, through the seizure of Arab land and the building of settlements thereon, and through the exercise of oppressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Finally on the last evening, "August Moon" will be shown. Filmed in the Arab Maghreh, the movie revolves around Ana, a Spanish girl who travels to Tangier to join her boyfriend Miguel. She then travels to Marrakesh with her young friend, Gihran. In Marrakesh she finds out some rather surprising facts about Miguel.

All films begin at 8:00 p.m.

AOAS outlines strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences' executive board Thursday approved the organisation's strategy for the years 1990-1995, and its plan of action for the years 1990-1991.

AOAS Director General Naser Al Sayegh Thursday said that the organisation strategy as approved by the board, has defined the objective, priorities, programmes and mechanism of work in line with the strategy of the common economic Arab work, and the resolutions of the Arab Economic and Social Council.

At the conclusion of its meetings, the AOAS board called on all member states to increase their support to the organisation to enable it to carry out its services in the best manner. It voiced appreciation and gratitude to Jordan for the continued support Jordan has been giving to the organisation.

Rotarians start regional meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Social Development Fawaz Tougan Thursday inaugurated the 53rd annual conference of the Rotary Club in the region, which was held this year under the theme: "Rotarians work towards a better life."

Addressing the Rotarians, Tougan pointed out that development plans in Jordan are oriented towards comprehensive and integrated services and that they have opened the door wide for the private sector to play an equal role with the public sector.

Tougan added that the new trends, as outlined in the comprehensive development charter announced by His Majesty King Hussein, aim at revitalising the role of young people in the development process, the development of local communities, in addition to greater emphasis on training and rehabilitation. Such

trends, Tougan noted, are also geared to transform the society into a productive one.

Also addressing participants was the Rotarian region's governor Subhi Al Tihl who reviewed the club's objectives at the global level and pointed out that the Rotary International is bound to work towards achieving a better life. He added that the movement aims at promoting relations of love and understanding among all citizens.

Amman-based Rotary Club Chairman Husam Al Hudhud reviewed the activities and programmes of the Rotary movement in the Arab World and pointed out that the first Rotary club in the Arab World was established in Jerusalem in 1926. On the club's activities in Jordan, Hudhud said, the club has contributed by building a dental clinic at Al Nuzha social services centre in 1987, the establishment of an information centre at Al Shomari

Wild Life Reserve in Azraq and a library and a social centre for children in Mafrak.

No education for Palestinians, Israel tells UNRWA

AMMAN (J.T.) — On March 28 UNRWA was told by Israel that "military security" precludes for the time being the introduction of even interim measures to provide some basic education for the youngest pupils while 90 of the 98 UNRWA schools in the West Bank remain closed.

UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, had been

preparing teaching materials for the first three elementary grades which, beginning March 25, teachers were to have given to children in their homes.

West Bank schools have been closed by the Israeli authorities except for a few intermittent periods since February 1988 and have been closed continuously since Jan. 21 1989.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

SYMPOSIUM: A two-day symposium on the new international humanitarian order and human rights in the Arab World, organised by the Arab Thought Forum in cooperation with the Amman Business and Professional Club, starts here Saturday (Petra).

CONTRACTORS: Amman will be a venue for the two-day meetings of contractors from the four founding member states of the Arab Cooperation Council — Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen — who will discuss scopes of cooperation and coordination among the various contracting companies in the four countries. The meeting starts Saturday (Petra).

ITALIAN GIFT: Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francesco de Corten Thursday visited the Queen Alia Foundation for Hearing and Speech and donated a number of hearing aids to the centre for use by eligible hearing impaired. The Italian donation is in line with an agreement concluded earlier between the Italian government and the Foundation (Petra).

HONOURED: Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Thursday held a dinner in honour of the outgoing French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Lachery, whose tour of duty in Jordan has expired. The dinner was attended by Minister of Tourism Yezal Hikmat and a number of Arab and foreign ambassadors to Jordan (Petra).

STUDY: The Electronics Services and Training Centre, in conjunction with the Computer Science Department at the Royal Scientific Society has completed a study of arabisation methods for microcomputers. The study was sponsored by the Higher Council for Science and Technology at an estimated cost of JD 20,000 and was carried out over a period of nine months. The aim of this study was to evaluate a number of arabisation packages which are in the market today and to discuss the possibility of laying down specifications of a model arabisation solution (J.T.).

WELCOMED: The Arab League Council Wednesday endorsed Jordan's draft resolution welcoming the Hague Declaration which provides for preserving the ozone layer. His Majesty King Hussein and other world leaders signed this declaration on March 11, 1989 (Petra).

FAIR: A large number of people, including the Nicaraguan foreign minister, have visited the First Jordanian Industrial Fair being held in Abu Dhabi. The visitors expressed admiration in the Jordanian national industry which proved to be of good quality (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting Jordan's historical and touristic sites at the University of Jordan.
- * An exhibition of Jordanian national heritage displaying Jordanian-made carpets and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan.
- * A book exhibition at the Wasfi Tal Industrial School, Irbid.
- * An exhibition of Jordanian-Soviet stamps at Alia Art Gallery — 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- * An exhibition entitled "The Tuebingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Ma'ta University — 11:00 a.m.

LECTURES

- * A lecture, in Arabic, on "Arabic Language and Computer" by Dr. Ali Al Malli at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.
- * A lecture by Prof. Dr. Dieter Weiss entitled "Public Sector Enterprises, Social Control and the Control of Market-oriented Management. Components in a Competitive International Environment" at the Yarmouk University — 11:00 a.m.

FILMS

- * A Spanish film entitled "You Alone," shown as part of the Spanish Film Week, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- * A German film entitled "Frühlingsstimmung" (English subtitled) at the Gothic Institute — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Health hazard

THERE is a growing scare and panic about the consumption of beverages including milk from paper cartons because such cartons are suspected of containing dioxin, a powerful carcinogen, which is produced when paper used for such cartons is bleached with chlorine. Thus the culprit has been definitely isolated as chlorine which is being used to remove a variety of impurities from paper used to make cartons for beverages worldwide.

In view of the seriousness of this problem and the great danger to health posed to Jordanians consuming beverages from cartons suspected of containing dioxin, our health authorities and environmentalists are duty bound to assure our people about the quality of the paper used in Jordan for beverages especially for milk. It should not be a difficult task to determine quickly whether Jordanian cartons used for beverages contain dioxin or not. If it does, one would expect our government to ban forthwith the use of paper cartons for such purposes and order its replacement with other material such as plastic or glass. It goes without saying that time is of the essence when human life and health are threatened and no price tag is too high to protect Jordanian lives at the quickest time possible. If our beverage industries need time to replace the paper cartons that they are innocently using now, they should be asked to suspend the sale of beverages, including milk, till a substitute material is found. Surely whatever effect on health that would ensue from the suspension of the sale of beverages could not outweigh the danger to health that the continued use of paper cartons with dioxin would pose to life. Fortunately the holy month of Ramadan will commence in a few days and it will provide the most propitious occasion to find acceptable alternatives to paper cartons that are suspected of containing dioxin. Meanwhile, our health authorities should issue warnings to consumers in Jordan about paper cartons after they determine that they contain dioxin. Come to think of it, our health authorities should also issue warnings about any other product that is sold on the Jordanian market which has been found elsewhere in the world as suspect of containing some form of carcinogen. A case in point is dried figs which is a popular fruit in Jordan and found elsewhere as containing carcinogen elements. One hates to think that we in Jordan lag so much behind other countries, which stay diligently on their toes, when it comes to weeding out products that are liberally consumed by our people without being aware that they have been found to be hazardous to health elsewhere. All such developments make the point for establishing a consumer protection agency all the more pressing.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Friday attacked Israeli media campaigns directed against the Arabs in which Israeli leaders claim that the Arab World's quest for peace in the Middle East is closely connected with the economic situation in the region and designed to alleviate their debts. The paper noted that the Arabs have been seeking a just and durable peace under all circumstances and the economic situation has never been an incentive for intensifying efforts towards the attainment of peace which would restore Palestinian people's rights in their homeland. The Arab Nation has been trying to achieve peace but Israel has always been placing obstacles in the path of a just settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper noted. It said that the Arab countries desire for peace cannot be questioned because peace would bring back to the Arab people their usurped rights and peace for the Arabs is not a commodity that can be compromised. It is Israel's lust for bloodshed and its aim to perpetuate occupation of Arab land that is being questioned by all the countries of the world, the paper concluded.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, a local columnist casts a cloud of pessimism over the outcome of the on-going confrontations in and negotiations about Lebanon. Abdul Rahim Omar says that the six-member Arab League committee assigned to handle the question of ending the fighting in Beirut can never achieve its objectives unless it took some measures to stop Israel from fuelling the situation and setting one party against another. The writer also is pessimistic about and critical of a statement by the present Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss who had stated that the Lebanese should consider returning their country to a situation that existed before the 1974 civil war in Lebanon. The writer says that the civil war which started a long time ago and is still continuing, broke out because the people wanted reforms; and therefore returning Lebanon to the pre-1974 situation means that the destruction that took place and the victims that fell in the war were offered for nothing. The writer says that the Lebanese ought to talk peace instead of pursuing the language of the gun.

Al Dustour daily tackled the Land Day anniversary which fell on Thursday during which a general strike was observed throughout occupied Palestinian land. The paper noted that the Land Day symbolises the long struggle of the oppressed people of Palestine and the strike and the processions and protests are staged every year to remind the world of the sacred right of the Palestinian people whose lands were usurped since 1948. The paper said that the uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip reaffirms this right and reflects the Arab people's determination to regain their rights. It said that all indications point to the fact that the Israeli occupation will soon end simply because the Palestinians are determined to pursue the struggle for freedom.

U.S. experts see boost for Gorbachev

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S.-Soviet watchers are astonished by the drubbing Communist party conservatives suffered in the Soviet elections and say the results are likely to help Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev's reform programme.

The official U.S. reaction was more cautious, at least initially, with the Bush administration welcoming a more open Soviet system and Secretary of State James Baker saying only that he doubted Gorbachev would regret the vote results.

State Department officials cautioned against excessive enthusiasm about changes in the Soviet system.

"It is a one-party state and not all elections were contested," one official told Reuters.

But among private analysts, even conservatives who have been sceptical about Gorbachev's reforms expressed amazement at the returns from Sunday's elections and said the vote was a highly significant, positive development.

"The Sovietology community is stunned," said Alice Young, a Soviet affairs expert at the conservative Centre for Strategic and International Studies who runs a computer research network for

scholars. Virtually no one had expected rebel Communist Boris Yeltsin to garner 89 per cent of the vote against an officially backed opponent, she said, adding: "People who had put up with abuse from the party for so long have stood up to be counted."

The first contested Soviet elections in 70 years — a major plank in Gorbachev's reform platform — shook Communist organisations from the Pacific island of Sakhalin to the western Ukraine.

The city chiefs of Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Lvov, Minsk and Kishinyov were among the victims.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"It really is historic," said Georgetown University's Thane Gustafson, a specialist in Soviet politics. "It's an extraordinary slap in the face of the ruling party at every level."

Dmitri Simes, a Soviet-watchdog at the Carnegie Endowment think tank, said in an interview: "The Communist Party apparatus has been challenged for the first time, but not destroyed, not shattered."

It was unclear how many of the reformers elected in the poll would survive the second stage of selection for membership in a reconstituted supreme Soviet that will meet continuously and is

expected to have some genuine legislative power.

Gustafson predicted that many of the strongest reformers, including Yeltsin, would never serve in the supreme Soviet.

The analysts said that in the short term the vote greatly strengthened Gorbachev's hand because the Soviet leader could now claim wide popular support for his reform programmes of political openness and perestroika, or economic restructuring.

He had managed to stoke a popular desire for reform and use it to advance his programme, Young said.

The Washington Post argued in a lead editorial Tuesday that Gorbachev was "shrewdly using democratic forms to diminish the entrenched party core and other bureaucratic and conservative elements that impede his form."

Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov suggested Tuesday that regional Communist leaders beaten in the historic election could be stripped of their party posts, which would strengthen Gorbachev's hand.

U.S. analysts saw two dangers to Gorbachev in the election.

First, it might cause his conservative opponents, fearful that they may soon be ousted, to organise against him.

Second, it could encourage moves toward secession in the

Soviet Baltic republics, where many candidates sympathetic to regional autonomy won by big margins.

If the forces of autonomy pressed to break away from the Soviet Union, Gorbachev would be in serious trouble and would have to send in the military, Gustafson said.

Analysts are also concerned that agitation for autonomy within the Soviet Union could encourage Moscow's East European allies to try breaking away, a trend that could also threaten Gorbachev.

Secretary of State Baker said in a New York Times interview published Tuesday that Washington was cautiously considering a proposal to seek talks with Moscow on loosening control over Eastern Europe.

The newspaper said such an arrangement would include Moscow loosening its hold over the region in exchange for a pledge by the United States and its Western allies not to move into Eastern Europe and undermine the Soviet Union.

"I think it is important that any such idea, to the extent that it is going to be pursued, be pursued carefully so that you do not send a signal that somehow we are getting together with the Soviet Union and carving up Eastern Europe," Baker said.

candidacy could be a positive influence because they wanted to push the reform process further along, he said.

The Soviet leader did not face the voters on Sunday because he and most other members of the ruling politburo were among the 100 deputies chosen for the party's allotment of seats in the 2,250-member Congress of People's Deputies.

Of 641 top party officials who took part in that balloting, 12 voted against Gorbachev. "I would be very much upset if there was no criticism," Gorbachev said when asked Sunday about the negative votes.

The size of the anti-establishment vote nationwide showed officials did not tamper with the results, thereby indicating Gorbachev is serious about democratic reforms.

Monitors from the U.S.-based International Human Rights Law group said the election process appeared efficient, and that they saw no evidence of cheating.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, interviewed by the American television network NBC, said Tuesday he did not believe Gorbachev would regret the election.

"I would have to say of course that we feel that the jury is still very much out on whether or not perestroika will succeed," Baker said. "We don't think there'll be any reversal of what's taken place, though, because once you let people taste the fruits of freedom, it's pretty hard to put the genie back in the bottle. But I'm not sure he'll rue the day."

"The debate on church-state relations is important because it puts to the test the new government's stated aim to modernise politics and to reconcile revolutionary ideals of the past with the requirements of today," said a Western diplomat.

Like many aspects of Mexican political life, church-state relations are governed by unspoken rules and tacit understandings.

By Mark J. Porubcansky
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Results of multi-candidate balloting in which voters rejected top officials around the country are a blow to the prestige of the Communist Party, but not necessarily to Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, who masterminded the electoral reforms.

Legions of angry voters may have done for Gorbachev what he has not been able to accomplish in four years of reform — shake up entrenched bureaucrats by saying they are slowing him down.

At the same time, Gorbachev has said he is willing to risk public criticism of the Kremlin in order to establish a more open society, and the elections demonstrated that will be a price he pays for tolerance. But the outcome also enhanced his standing as a leader serious about reform.

Gorbachev's proposal of a new election law last year was designed to increase public participation in government affairs and perhaps to make the Kremlin more responsive to the public. In its first, admittedly imperfect round of nominations and balloting, the law focused a spotlight on many government and party officials unaccustomed to the glare of nationwide multi-candidate balloting, and some found the exposure most unpleasant.

The losses suffered would have been unimaginable until just recently: A candidate politburo member and party leader of Leningrad, the party chief of

Election hurts party, may help Gorbachev

Kiev, the president and premier of Lithuania, the mayor and No. 2 party leader of Moscow, regional party chairmen throughout the country.

In contrast, Moscow voters gave Boris N. Yeltsin 89 per cent of the votes in a stunning endorsement of his anti-establishment campaign.

Gorbachev has long complained that the complacency or outright opposition of many ranking officials is slowing his 4-year-old reform effort.

Asked Tuesday about the effect of the election on Gorbachev's political standing, a senior Western diplomat in Moscow said: "I suspect it will strengthen his hand. There are instances in which party chiefs were defeated, and the Yeltsin vote is evidence that the radical reforms have to continue." The diplomat spoke on condition he not be identified.

Virgilijus Chapaitis, a leader of the Lithuanian grassroots movement Sajudis, which defeated the republic's president and premier, said, "Gorbachev need not fear this election. It's not a victory against the party; it's a victory of the progressives."

Mexican church campaigns for power

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's Roman Catholic church, shackled by harsh anti-clerical laws, is throwing more weight behind its demands for greater influence in public life.

The church has long pursued a low-key campaign for a bigger voice in a predominantly Catholic country where the clergy faces more official restrictions than almost anywhere else outside the Communist bloc.

But in a climate of increasing openness after the election of Carlos Salinas de Gortari as president, the church appears inclined to take a higher profile in its efforts to win back some of the rights it lost in the 1910-20 Mexican revolution.

On good Friday, the country's most senior cleric combined complaints over constitutional curbs on the activities of the clergy with demands for far-reaching reforms.

After praying for religious freedom at Mexico City's cathedral, Cardinal Ernesto Corripio told reporters that a serious review of church-state relations must take into account both the opinion of the clergy and the wishes of the people.

The fact that church leaders were invited to the December 1 swearing-in of Salinas, the cardinal said, "does not signify giving religious freedom."

The appearance of Corripio and the Vatican's representative, Geronimo Prigione, at the presidential inauguration touched off a heated political debate which showed that wounds still fester more than six decades after churches were sacked and priests hanged in a wave of government repression.

Mexico's political left was enraged by the new president's gesture in inviting clerics, saying it was a violation of the 1917 constitution which broke the enormous political and economic

power of the church.

Under the constitution, priests are banned from voting, taking part in politics, and even wearing cassocks outside church. The church, which owned roughly half of Mexico's land before the revolution, cannot own property.

The clergy, Corripio said on Good Friday, had no access to the electronic media under a law which banned priests from speaking on radio or appearing on

television. "The obstacles for full religious freedom are many and have accumulated over the years ... Serious thought is necessary to bring about true freedom, harmony and peace."

The cardinal's remarks, mild by most standards, made front-page headlines in Mexican newspapers, highlighting keen interest in a subject which goes beyond the public role of the clergy.

OPEN FORUM

Land Day

THIRTEEN years ago last Thursday, the land of Palestine exploded into one of the stormiest uprisings when thousands of Palestinians rose on the morning of March 30, 1976, in answer to the call of mayors and local councils to hold a general strike. Marching in the streets of Nazareth, Galilee, Sakhalin, and all the cities, towns and camps of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, unarmed Palestinians demonstrated against occupation, against Israeli confiscation of 21,000 dunums in the Galilee and the triangle and against the building of Jewish settlements.

Today, thirteen years later we are not only witnessing the continuation of the March 30 uprising in the occupied territories, but the continuation of all the Palestinian uprisings as early as 1921 where Palestinians sacrificed their lives for their homeland, their national identity and their right to self-determination.

In the past 16 months of the current Palestinian uprising 418 Palestinians have been killed, thousands wounded, 23,000 detained and 49 deported as they fought to keep their homes, land and identity in the face of Israel's brutal onslaught to uproot and dispossess them.

Knowing the importance of the land, successive Israeli governments have had as their official policy the seizure of land and the expulsion of its Palestinian owners as a means to bury the Palestinian national identity and to build Zionist settlements on Palestinian lands.

Just a day before Land Day this year, Israel Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin urged an amendment to the Israeli law that bans the Israeli government from deporting detainees who live in east Jerusalem, annexed by Israel in 1967.

Deportation of Palestinians, confiscation of their land and settlements building, which are at the heart of the Israeli policy, are complemented by the shooting and the arresting of Palestinians, the demolitions of homes, the vandalism of hospitals, the closure of schools and universities and the uprooting of trees, to name only a few.

Despite all of this no Palestinian has left his or her home on their own initiative despite the hardships they are subjected to. Armed only with stones the young and the old, whether Christian, Muslim, male or female, face Israel's iron vest policy defiantly. Everyone in the Arab World takes his hat off to those Palestinians who are coping with their difficult conditions and are rising up in unity to resist the seizure of their land and to the popular committees formed to defend the Palestinian land against occupation.

Yet as the Palestinians continue their uprising, they look at their brothers for support. As new sub-regional cooperation councils are being formed, perhaps these will be the nucleus for Arab unity, one that is different from those aspired for in the 1950's. A more realistic Arab unity, whereby consensus can actually be achieved among each group of countries within each cooperation block.

Perhaps if all the groups reach similar conclusions on the Palestinian cause, then the Arab World as a whole can stand up to the outside world and can impose its will for peace, before more Palestinians lives are lost.

We should take advantage of the shift in U.S. policy, whether artificial or not. The taboo has been broken, and the U.S. is conducting dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). James Baker, the U.S. secretary of state, has refused to equate the intifada and attacks from Lebanon with "terrorism."

Keeping in mind the Soviet Union's favourable stand towards the Palestinian problem, the Arab groups can play upon these changes, at the same time providing the people in the occupied territories with all possible support.

The intifada is not only the best card the PLO has, but the best card in the hands of the Arab World. We should use it well, for it is the only card which has allowed us as Arabs to finally hold our heads up high and which will force the return of Arab land to its rightful owners.

Najwa Najjar

LETTERS

Greetings

To the Editor:

YEARS ago, I came to America. I attended elementary school, secondary school and college in the state of Texas. After college I began looking for a job in the field of computer engineering. My job search took me from the east to the west coast, but the chances for a Palestinian/American to find a good job became slim and hopeless.

On December 13 I heard the words of our beloved friend Yasser Arafat accepting the U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 "as the basis for negotiations." I thought this should satisfy both the American and Jewish people and for a brief moment I dreamt of the day I would be working in the city of my birth, Jerusalem, however, the Israelis won again. They performed the ultimate performance on the American public and media. They appeared to be crushed by the unanticipated with which their closest ally seemed to accept Arafat's commitment to

accept the legitimacy of a Jewish state in Palestine. Even their friend Mr. Henry Kissinger said today "After all, the PLO was founded in 1964 when Israel was within its 1967 borders and the old city of Jerusalem was in Arab hands. It stated purpose, which continues to be expressed in its charter, has been the destruction of the state of Israel. Any serious diplomatic effort must start from two propositions: Conditions for a final settlement simply do not exist; Israel cannot be asked simultaneously to give up territories and to establish a PLO state."

My fellow Palestinians in the Gaza and the West Bank I see the intifada on the news everyday. I see you dying and my heart and my eyes become full of pain and tears. I say to you be patient, keep hope alive, and God be with you always.

Jamal Ras
New Jersey
U.S.

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A stew over Kenya's local brew

By Paul Amina

A local illegal brew called "changaa" — poisonous when not properly prepared — is causing controversy in Kenya. Teetotaler President Moi and the clergy have tried to ban the production of changaa but its cheapness and popularity among ordinary Kenyans are against them.

KISUMU, Kenya — Poorer Kenyans, who cannot afford a beer but like the occasional glass of illegal "changaa" — a cheap but reputedly lethal local gin — are disappointed. Their drink is not going being legalised after all.

Government officials, worried about the cost of policing the ban, had planned careful legalisation and licensing of the drink, which is one of the many traditional — but when carelessly prepared, poisonous — brews made throughout Africa.

Some such brews have already been legalised in other countries such as Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Ethiopia and Somalia. But Kenya's Attorney-General Matthew Muli, reacting to loud objections from the Anglican Church, and pre-empting the conclusions of a commission which has been studying reform

of the law against changaa brewing, has announced the ban will continue.

"We cannot legalise what is illegal," he said.

The Attorney-General responding to Anglican clergyman the Reverend Jephthah Gathaka, who claimed that if changaa were legalised, people would next call for the legalisation of prostitution, drug trafficking and other vices.

Earlier, government officials had been telling the Law Reform Commission, sitting at Kisumu, on the shores of Lake Victoria, that an improved and licensed changaa should be sold in the open market by a group of well organised co-operatives.

To make changaa, grain flour is soaked in water and left to ferment for a few days, then fried in a large open pan. Left to cool, it

is soaked in water once again, mixed with yeast and left to ferment for a further two days.

The resulting "busaa" is mixed with sugar or molasses and further fermented in a tightly covered drum or pot for at least a week to produce "kangara" — which in turn is distilled to make changaa.

If the proper production process is followed, say changaa fans, the drink can rival aged Scotch whiskeys and brandy. But get-rich-quick dealers in towns add chemicals, baking powder and other catalysts to speed up fermentation — rendering the drink unhealthy and even unfit for human consumption. Unknown numbers of people have died from drinking such crude changaa.

The commission has been gathering opinions on the eight-year-old changaa ban from all corners of Kenyan society.

At present, the law empowers police to raid premises suspected to be holding or dealing in changaa. But penalties of around \$600 or six months' imprisonment have not proved a strong deterrent. The reason: cost. A tot of

locally-brewed changaa can sell for as little as 60 cents in Nairobi, while a tot of factory-prepared spirits costs about \$2 and a bottle of beer goes for slightly more than \$1.

The national minimum wage stands at about \$39 a month and a monthly rent for a room is about \$30. A low-wage Kenyan cannot pay for a decent room, bus fare to and from work, buy a daily meal of cabbage and maize meal, and have anything left for a daily bottle of beer. So a little changaa is attractive.

But now that the Attorney-General has rejected the proposal even before seeing the commission's recommendation, the chances of legalisation are very slim indeed.

Moreover, President Daniel Arap Moi, a devout Christian and a teetotaler, demonstrated his hatred for alcoholism long ago by ordering the countrywide closure of beer halls — except in major towns — after assuming power from President Jomo Kenyatta. Some beer halls have since been turned into adult education classrooms and churches.

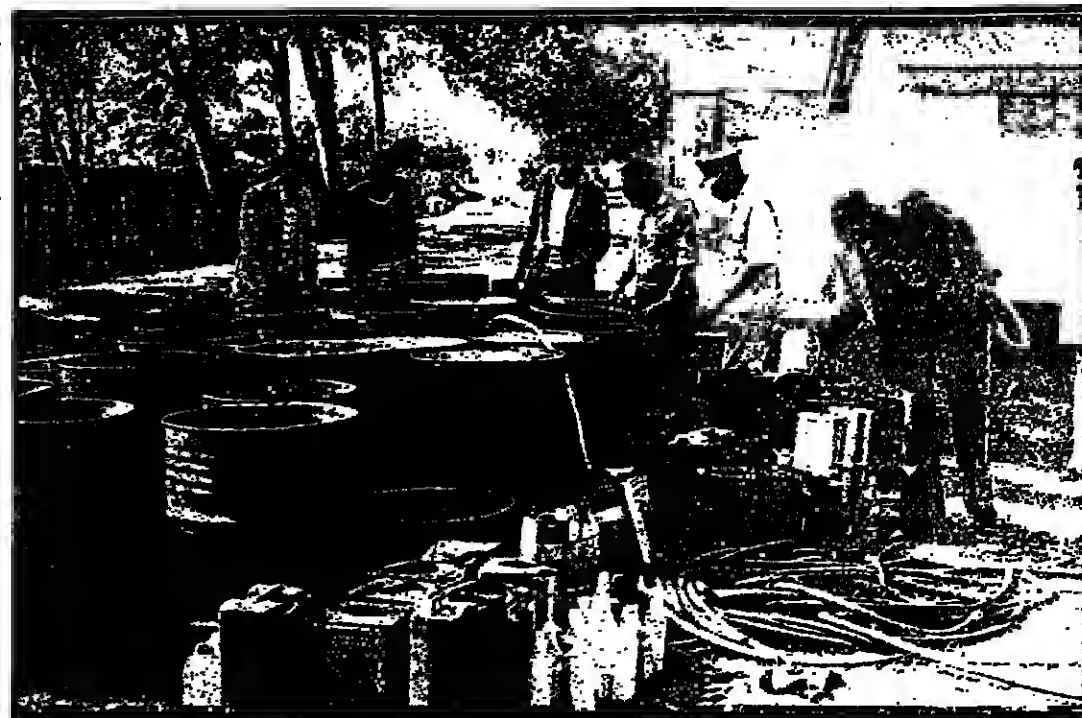
In 1987, President Moi ordered the cancellation of beer store licences.

Recently, in an effort to halt the widespread brewing changaa, Moi ordered the police to raid premises selling the brew, and arrest and force the dealers to drink all of it found in their possession.

Moi is not alone in the fight against alcoholism in Africa. His Zambian counterpart, President Kenneth Kaunda, recently broke into tears when protesting about alcoholism in his country. He threatened to resign if his countrymen did not change their drinking habits.

Alcoholism in developing countries is on the increase. According to the latest figures from the World Health Organisation, beer consumption in Central and Western Africa is up by 345% (1960-81), followed by East Asian countries by 560% in the same period.

Beer accounted for about 40% of the world's alcoholic beverage production: African countries produced and drank the biggest quantity — Panos.



Kenyan police draining changaa from distillery drums, after the distillers had fled.

Do they really care?

By Mark Trevelyan
Reuter

YORK — Paul Sayer snatched Britain's richest literary prize last January with the harrowing story of a speechless, paralysed mental patient. Two months later, he still has qualms of conscience.

"The comforts of madness," written in Sayer's spare time while he was working a psychiatric nurse, won the \$34,250 Whitbread Book of the Year Prize. But Sayer — who quit nursing two days later to become a full-time writer, and plans a second novel about madness — admits to misgivings about drawing inspiration from the silent, inner world of the mentally ill.

"I think I have misgivings about being seen to represent this big and silent world... I sometimes wonder if I did the right thing, if I wasn't really abusing the sort of insight I had into that place," he said in an interview. "But then on the other hand... the mentally ill really should have someone to tell their story."

"The comforts of madness" is narrated by Peter, a catatonic patient unable to move or speak, but acutely sensitive to the daily humiliations heaped on him in the course of his treatment.

Denying him the sanctuary of his comforting, silent world, doctors relentlessly probe and experiment with his inert body, anxious to find even faint flickers of a human response.

A supervisor thrusts pictures of

naked women in his face and undresses him, seeking signs of sexual excitement, while some doctors send him on terrifying drug-induced flights of memory and imagination, returning him to his disturbed childhood.

What are their rights?

Peter alternates between quiet resignation to his fate and furious indignation. "They should have known better than to fool around with someone like me. What right had they?" he demands. "But then, what were my rights?"

Though Peter is not based on any real patient, Sayer drew on his own disquieting experiences of psychiatric nursing to write the book.

"When I started nursing in the 70s... the only ward I found very, very difficult was rehabilitation, which I couldn't get along with — the idea of me saying to someone: 'You are ill. I am well. I am going to make you like me' — this idea of remaking someone," he said. "The premise of the book is the idea that reinventing people is wrong."

Some critics have found elements of black comedy in "The comforts of madness." Others find it depressing and others see it as a statement on behalf of the mentally ill, though Sayer says he never intended the book as a polemic.

"The ambition was always just to write a novel, not make any sort of statement on behalf of the mentally ill. I did quite deliber-

ately keep sentiment out of the thing and make it very simple," he said.

He also doubts the sincerity of some readers' response. "If people were really worried about the plight of the mentally ill, then they would do something about it, they would go and become nurses of fund schizophrenic, but they don't."

"They like to go to an abstraction like a novel because it's safe and you can hold it in your hands in your own home and then say, 'gosh, isn't it awful'."

"The comforts of madness," has entered its fourth edition in Britain and is set for publication in the United States in September. Translation rights into French and Spanish have already been sold.

The 35-year-old writer, with self-deprecating humour, says he feels intimidated by the task of living up to this newly-acquired reputation. "I think it's all downhill from now on, to be quite honest. It's very intimidating," he said.

He is now working on a new novel, also dealing with the theme of madness, and in September plans to publish his first short story, a tale of "morbid jealousy among the yuppie set."

In the long-term, Sayer says his aim is to write 10 good novels. "The first one seems all right, and I'd like to do nine more. That's my ambition," he said. "I'd like to write good novels that'll be around for a while."

It could happen to anybody

By Rich Kirkpatrick
The Associated Press

MIDDLETOWN, Pennsylvania — Life nearly imitated art a decade ago with nuclear technology that supposedly couldn't fail. In nearby Harrisburg, a theatre showed "China Syndrome," a movie in which a nuclear accident threatened to wipe out an area "the size of Pennsylvania."

At 4 a.m. on March 28, 1979, movie fantasy turned horribly real at the three mile island power plant as a series of human and mechanical failures nearly triggered a nuclear disaster along the Susquehanna River.

By 8 a.m., after cooling water was lost and temperatures soared above 2,760 degrees centigrade, the top half of reactor's 136,000-kilogramme radioactive core collapsed and melted. Contaminated coolant water escaped into a nearby building, releasing radioactive gases.

Frightened by reports of uncontrolled radiation releases and a potentially explosive hydrogen bubble in the damaged reactor, as many as 200,000 people living within 80 kilometres of the plant fled the region. Officials advised women and young children within eight kilometres to leave. Fears remained despite containment.

The accident was contained, but it intensified fears about the potential dangers of nuclear power, killed plans for new U.S. plants, and left a once-complacent nuclear power industry defensive about its abilities.

Robert Long, director of Planning and Nuclear Safety at Three Mile Island, recalled that before 1979, people in the industry were confident a serious accident was all but impossible.

"All of us felt it was just really remote," he said. "There are still

people in the industry who think, 'it couldn't happen to us.' We're constantly trying to remind people it could happen to anybody."

The health effects continue to be debated. The utility says radiation does outside the plant during the accident were less than background radiation, and 10 national and state studies found no evidence of increased human cancers or other serious problems in animals or plants.

Anti-nuclear activists claim the studies were flawed and say they have seen evidence of increased cancers, medical problems in animals and vegetation mutations. Studies will continue for years, and many people remain anxious.

General Public Utilities Corp., the New Jersey-based owner of the plant, suffered greatly. It lost a nearly \$1-billion investment in the just-opened unit 2, was vilified for mangling the region's psyche and teetered on the edge of bankruptcy until a cleanup financing plan was put in place in 1985 and its other reactor at Three Mile Island returned to service later the same year.

After overcoming both financial and technical pitfalls, the nearly \$1-billion cleanup should be completed late next year. General public utilities now is being hailed by the industry as a model utility.

"We're trying to recognise people do make mistakes, but we're going to do what we can to learn from those mistakes," said Michael Roche, director of unit 2.

For most of those who live near Three Mile Island, this week's anniversary will be just another day. But local activists will hold a vigil outside the plant, talk with reporters and recall those eerie days of 1979.

Shortcomings in cleanup

Two citizen groups, Three Mile Island Alert and Susquehanna Valley Alliance, have doggedly monitored plant activities and called attention to shortcomings in cleanup and operations. They also tried to block the 1985 restart of the unit 1 reactor.

"This is a utility that has lied, cheated and was convicted of a felony," said Eric Epstein, a spokesman for Three Mile Island Alert. "In our opinion, it lacks the requisite competence and character to operate a nuclear plant."

He referred to a guilty plea in 1984 for the use of false leak test results at unit 2's cooling system before the accident, to accusations the company made false statements to the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and to a cheating scandal involving operating personnel who took licensing tests in 1981.

"I think there are still underlying concerns, but people are getting on with their lives," said Joel Roth, a former chairman of Three Mile Island Alert. "Underlying it, there is still quite a bit of feeling... the utility is going to do what it wants to do regardless of what anybody else does."

One of the surprises of the accident was that the so-called China Syndrome — a chain of events in which molten fuel burns through a reactor and containment building and spews radioactive steam into the air — can be stopped once started.

Although 50 per cent of the uranium fuel melted and 18,140 kilograms of molten material flowed within minutes to the bottom of the steel reactor vessel, the remaining water cooled it and held it in place.

"As a result of TMI-2, there has been a rethinking of severe accident consequences, and it's



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still going on today," said Roche, the unit 2 director.

One remaining issue is general public utilities' plan for long-term monitoring of unit 2. About 132 kilograms of nuclear fuel remain in hard-to-reach places, but the company says there is no chance of any chain reaction or other dangerous condition occurring.

Another issue is what to do with 8.7 million litres of once-contaminated water left from the

accident and its aftermath.

The company was blocked from dumping the filtered water into the Susquehanna River and now proposes spending \$7 million to boil it away over two years. Small amounts of radioactive cesium, carbon and strontium in the water would be removed and packaged before evaporation. Traces of radioactive tritium would remain in the water and be released to the atmosphere, but the company says that would pose no threat to the public.

To choreographer Twyla Tharp, dance is dance is dance

By Mary Kerner
Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO — To most people, classical ballet conjures up images of toe shoes and tutus, whereas modern dance means leotards and bare feet.

But the line of demarcation is blurring, and no one would be more pleased than choreographer Twyla Tharp to see it disappear altogether.

Dance aficionados wondered why Tharp, with four feature films to her credit — "Fat," "Ragtime," "Amadeus," and "White Nights" — would let go of her company and her autonomy to labour within the structure of an organisation like ABT.

But autonomy had a price. Running a dance company, she said, took too much time away from what she loves best: making dances.

"I want to make the best dances I can make, so I need to be in a situation where that can happen. When I feel the situation is restricting it and not allowing that to come to pass and it's being compromised, then I won't work," she said.

"Sinatra Suite," "The Little Ballet" and "Bach Partita." She received an Emmy for a 1985 television special, "Baryshnikov by Tharp," and they worked together on the film "White Nights."

The association has been beneficial.

Tharp loves working with technically strong dancers, and Baryshnikov's career expanded with Tharp's new approach to movement, which encompasses ballet, modern, jazz and tap dance.

Her dancers are coaching ABT in "Tharp" style, which requires tremendous speed, rapid change of directions and often juxtaposes

point shoes with sneakers. Her company, Twyla Tharp and dancers, was one of the first in the modern camp to don jazz shoes instead of bare feet, which she says tend stick to the floor.

Speed has always delighted her, and she has managed to use it in a way that looks nothing at all like the classical style of any school.

In the midst of ABT's current tour, Tharp left briefly for the premiere of "Rules of the Game," which she choreographed for the Paris Opera Ballet, her fourth new piece in six months. She found Paris Opera dancers markedly different than those at ABT, she said.

"They have an excellent

school, so they can do anything you ask them to do off balance," she said.

"They're much more serious. Part of that is the French desire for adventure in the arts, anyway. They're overly eager — just the opposite of here. They're far less conservative."

Tharp divided her time in San Francisco between ABT rehearsals and, in a hotel room jammed with tidy stacks of notecards and manuscript papers, an autobiography she is writing.

She plans a video as a companion to the book and promises a lecture tour — another surprise from a rather reserved dancer who prefers to let her pieces talk for themselves.

By Hugh Pain
Reuter

MAZAR-I-SHARIF — In Mazar-i-Sharif, all the pigeons are white.

So holy is the city, say the faithful, that any grey ones that arrive turn white within 40 days.

Mazar-i-Sharif, a muddy and romantic place of 200,000 souls in northern Afghanistan, is the resting place of Hazrat Ali, cousin and brother-in-law of the Prophet Mohammed and fourth caliph of Islam.

Or perhaps it is not. Ali was murdered in the year 661 in Iraq, and the Iraqis say his remains have been there ever since.

Not so, say the Afghans.

According to their tradition, to avoid the body falling into the hands of his enemies, the caliph's followers strapped him to a white camel which was set free to wander and turned up months later in Afghanistan, 2,500 kilometres away.

"There, a pious sultan built him a monument called Mazar-i-Sharif, the tomb of the exalted one."

Around this shrine there rose a splendid mosque, rebuilt in 1481 and decorated with a riot of blue and yellow tiles, and the focus of pilgrimages especially at Nowruz, the Islamic new year which fell this year on March 21 by the Western calendar.

Early in the morning, thousands of the faithful crowd the courtyards of the mosque to bear prayers and chant readings

from the Holy Koran. Pashtuns and Tajiks, Nuristanis and Uzbeks and Hazarachs and dozens of other tribes, their faces and races varying from European to Mongolian, crowd the precincts.

United by Islam

United by Islam, divided by politics and war, they have come to listen this year to speeches by party officials and an address by Prime Minister Sultan Ali Kishnamand calling for peace.

But the presence of generals and politicians and local functionaries cannot hijack the festival from the people.

The climax of the celebrations, the moment they have been waiting for, is the raising of the Janda, a long, decorated maypole covered with cloths and erected on Nowruz annually here for the past 630 years.

It may represent the raising of the standard of Islam by Hazrat Ali, or perhaps not — nobody seems very sure. But if its significance is doubtful, its effect is magical.

As the Janda is lifted to the vertical on an ancient stone, cannons boom, the white pigeons panic and fly, and a roar of satisfaction bursts from the thousands.

The mullahs and ministers file once around it and retreat to the safety of the dais, and as they do, the press of humanity becomes unstoppable.

The people break through the cordon of soldiers and rush for

the railings around the Janda. They press as close as they can come to the sacred maypole, throwing in coins and banknotes, fruits and ornate cloths, some inscribed with prayers, and little squares of growing seedlings to ensure a good harvest.

Policemen swat at enthusiasts who try to scale the railings while three men inside the enclosure, in a sea of money, take possessions from the faithful — clothing, watches, hats, anything will do, rub them on the green-and-gold cloth wound around the pole and hand them back, sanctified, to their owners.

An old woman brings an apple as an offering, spiking it on the railing. Seconds later a passing mullah retrieves it, splits it with a friend and munches contentedly at it as his due.

The dignitaries leave with their escorts, the soldiers and their band march off and the gardens around the mosque become a vast picnic ground. Hawkers sell bread or toys for the children or little packets of grain for the pigeons.

During the Buzkashi, a fusillade of rockets is fired into the nearby hills. Nobody is sure why. Perhaps it is a false alarm, perhaps a warning to the Mujahideen rebels encamped not far away.

Or perhaps it is a reminder to the crowds that when the celebrations, the feasting, the traditional enjoyments of Nowruz are over, Afghanistan is a country still poor, divided and at war.

There shouldn't be a definition or a difference between ballet and modern — it's all just dance," Tharp said during a recent interview in San Francisco where her "Everlast" had its world premiere with the touring American Ballet Theatre (ABT). "Everlast," which paired ABT star Susan Jaffe with Kevin O'Day from Tharp's former company, is a narrative about a boxer in love with the "wrong" woman. It is set in 1919 to songs of Jerome Kern.

Tharp stunned the dance world last summer when she gave up the modern troupe she had directed since 1965 to become an artistic associate of the New York-based ABT, a bastion of classical ballet.

Tharp brought seven of her dancers with her to ABT, which has been run since 1984 by Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Tharp's association with Soviet-born Baryshnikov dates back more than a decade. He danced her "push comes to shove" with ABT in 1976, and she later choreographed several pieces with him in mind —

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OPEC vows to try to choke excess oil, keep prices high

VIENNA (R) — OPEC ministers vowed to try to keep a choke on oil supply in the hope that prices will stay around current 19-month highs.

Ending talks in Vienna late Thursday, group leaders acknowledged that the next three months will probably see a seasonal dip in surprisingly strong world demand for petroleum products.

They also agreed that developments like the Valdez oil spill which has cut Alaskan supply and given prices their latest boost are one-off affairs.

Saudi, said Algerian Oil Minister Abdelkader Boussena, OPEC should be able to defend its target price of \$18 a barrel.

The average for OPEC crudes (which vary in quality) has only just climbed back to that level, last touched in a Gulf war flare-up in August 1987, after a glut last year took it down almost to \$10.

But Boussena and others said everything depended on OPEC sellers sticking to output quotas

assigned from Jan. 1 to erase the glut.

"One or two" have not been doing so, Rihwan Lukman of Nigeria, the current president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), conceded.

Secretary-General Subroto, however, said that Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which has been a leading source of excess supply, had telegraphed to say it was cutting back.

Subroto also said OPEC expects world demand for its oil to take another bound upward in the second half of 1989.

Ministers, however, were unwilling to predict by how much.

"There are various populations," Lukman said, while Indonesia's Ganiar Kartasmita found the current strength of demand still something of a

puzzle.

"Almost everyone is agreed the demand outlook is better than we thought," he said. But he explained that the uncertainty meant that the session could offer no firm proposals for the next full OPEC conference on June 5.

The meeting was of an eight-nation market monitoring committee with no decision-making powers.

The June 5 talks will bring together all 13 members to set quotas for the second half of 1989 — when it may prove tricky to accommodate competing demands to sell more oil in the event that strong demand does permit a rise in the overall OPEC output ceiling (now 18.5 million barrels daily).

An alternative, also assuming good demand, might be to hold the ceiling down and send prices soaring by a majority including Saudi Arabia was said by delegates not to favour that.

Indonesia's Kartasmita said he thought a gap between pricing

"hawks" and "doves" had been bridged in informal exchange here, a view which seemed to be borne out by Iran's Gholamreza Azadch.

"For this year I don't think there would be anyone who would want a price higher than \$18, he said.

It was true that Iran had historically favoured stronger prices. "But we want 1989 to be a year of stability for OPEC."

Kuwait earlier had expressed the view of the big Gulf Arab producers that if prices go too high the consumer, already paying more at the pump in the United States and parts of Europe, will buy less and kill the fragile rally in demand.

Kuwait's Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, in remarks to lobby reporters, softened an earlier position that the ceiling should rise to 20 million barrels daily from July with his nation and the UAE getting big quota increases.

It was less a "suggestion" than an "opinion," he said.

73 countries pledge \$744 million to boost industry in Third World

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and 72 other countries have pledged \$744 million to boost new industry in the Third World by insuring investors against the risk of war, revolution and confiscation, an investment agency has announced.

The new Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency said Thursday that the highest pledge — \$20.51 million — came from the United States, followed by Japan with \$5.09 million and West Germany with \$5.07 million.

Leigh Hollywood, the agency's vice president for guarantees, said the first insurance policies probably will be written by June for periods of up to 20 years. So far most of the 60 applications have come from the United States but there have been others

from West Germany, Canada, Britain, Sweden, Denmark and Saudi Arabia, he said.

He spoke at a meeting of the Japan-America Society of Washington.

Hollywood said Chile was the country attracting most applicants. He suggested that was because the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the U.S. government body that writes similar insurance policies, is forbidden by law to insure investment in Chile.

Chile has been the most successful country in reducing its foreign debt by allowing creditor banks to use the money owed them for buying shares in Chilean industry.

The deals are called "debt-equity swaps." The resulting investments are prime candidates

for insurance by the agency, given the uncertainty about what will follow the government of Pinochet after December's election. Pinochet seized power from a leftist government 15 years ago.

Hollywood outlined four kinds of risks the agency will insure against.

— War, revolution and civil commotion, including losses caused by shut-downs due to violence.

— Expropriation, including what he called "creeping expropriation" in which foreign owners are gradually deprived of their rights by the government of the country where they have invested.

— Blockage by the local government of foreign exchange, preventing the foreign investor

from taking home earnings or the proceeds of a sale.

— Breach of contract by a government which has made an agreement with a foreign investor, so that the investor can collect from the agency if the government fails to pay up.

Hollywood explained that when the agency pays off the insured investor, it will try to collect the money from the government.

"We don't want to bankrupt ourselves," he said.

He added that it expects informal help in such collections from the World Bank, with which it shares offices and a president — Barro Comblat.

It also expects to make money from the premiums it will charge, ranging from 0.3 to 1.5 per cent for each of the four kinds of coverage, depending on the risk.

Bankers give Tokyo, Berne top ratings

NEW YORK (AP) — The credit ratings of South Korea, Chile, Portugal, Iran and Tunisia have risen strongly in the past six months, a survey of international bankers shows.

But the bankers have sharply downgraded their ratings of Trinidad, Panama, Cuba, Norway, Gabon and Libya, according to the survey by Institutional Investor, a New York-based financial monthly magazine.

Every six months Institutional Investor asks about 100 international commercial banks to rate the creditworthiness of more than 100 countries on a scale of 0 to 100. Those with higher ratings generally find it easier to raise loans and they tend to pay lower interest rates.

At the top of the scale are Japan and Switzerland, with ratings of 95.2 and 94.3, followed by

West Germany with 93.8. The United States, rated No. 1 for many years by bankers, now ranks fourth with 89.8 points.

At the bottom end of the scale are Nicaragua, which scored 4.7 out of 100, and North Korea, 3.6. In its March edition, the magazine commented that "relative political stability boosted South Korea, while rising tensions hurt Panama. Economic gains underpinned rises for Spain and Portugal, Mauritius and Thailand, but hints of reduced Soviet aid set back Cuba."

Since the last survey in September 1988, the biggest decline for a region was registered by Latin America. The U.S. registered a 0.2 gain since September, even though Washington "has shown no concrete signs of controlling its trade deficit, its budget deficit, or its exchange rate."

Iraq gets \$50 million credit from Pakistan

BAGHDAD (AP) — Pakistan will extend a \$50 million export credit to Iraq for purchases of Pakistani goods, the government-run Al-Ba weekly magazine has reported.

The magazine quoted Pakistan's Commerce Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat as saying the credit will cover a wide variety of products including fishing vessels and other merchant ships.

Al-Ba also quoted the Pakistan official as saying his country is keen to participate in Iraq's reconstruction efforts, following

the United Nations-sponsored ceasefire last Aug. 20 that halted the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

Hayat signed a bilateral economic and trade accord in Baghdad last month which he said "paved the way for further cooperation" between Iraq and Pakistan.

Officials in Baghdad told the Associated Press that a delegation of Iraqi businessmen will soon visit Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, to select goods covered by the new credit.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

UAE bank sets up index for stocks

DUBAI (R) — Stocks investors in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are being given a better opportunity to monitor their investments. The National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD) is setting up the country's first publicly-quoted stock index based on a basket of 22 shares, said NBAD senior manager Ziad Dabbas. Dealing in UAE shares is still limited to nationals but the move is part of a general trend toward more efficient capital markets within the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). At the annual meeting of Arab Monetary Funds and central bankers in Amman, delegates agreed that stock and bond markets needed to be developed to attract more private Arab capital as government-generated development revenues have declined due to low oil prices. The GCC nations — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — have agreed in principle to allow open investment in each other.

Yugoslavia expands liberalisation drive

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav government has decided to scrap import controls for private firms and relax foreign exchange controls, Tanjug news agency said Friday. The moves are part of reforms intended to create an open market for goods, labour and capital to revive an economy saddled with 346 per cent inflation, a \$22 billion foreign debt and 1.17 million unemployed. Prices, imports and the foreign exchange regime have been liberalised gradually since last May under an austerity package imposed by then prime minister Branko Mikulic. He resigned in December in a parliamentary rift over inflation but his successor Ante Markovic, a liberal reformer who took office last month, pledged to deregulate the economy further. The Markovic government said it is abolishing a \$250 daily maximum withdrawal limit on hard currency bank accounts in Yugoslavia. It also dropped a \$70,000 annual limit on private firms importing equipment, raw material and semi-finished goods. The government also ruled out a return to wage controls, which were introduced a year ago by Mikulic, fuelling nationwide labour unrest.

IBM Japan profits \$640 million

TOKYO (AP) — IBM Japan Ltd. earned net profits of \$5.23 billion (\$640.8 million) in 1988, up 14.7 per cent from the previous year, thanks to Japan's expanding economy and steady demand for information-processing equipment, the company has announced. The company said domestic sales grew by 12.8 per cent to \$38.5 billion (\$6.3 billion) while exports rose by 10.1 per cent to \$49.3 billion (\$2.6 billion). The increase in exports

To stop throat-grating nicotine injections

Arabs squeeze tobacco firms

ABU DHABI (R) — British and U.S. tobacco firms face possible losses in the lucrative Gulf Arab market, where governments are trying to stop their dedicated smokers puffing away on strong cigarettes.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is due to impose new regulations Saturday which could force tobacco firms to change some production lines, local dealers said.

They said the U.S. companies Marlboro and Winston and the British firms Rothmans and Dunhill, which between them have 90 per cent of the UAE market, all sold cigarettes which would be banned under the new rules.

The other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia are expected to

follow suit following a GCC agreement last year, aimed at reducing the number of smokers, officials said.

Every year UAE smokers now puff their way through 2.5 billion cigarettes worth \$67 million and the total GCC market of 17 million people is worth about 15 times more, dealers said.

"Demand is very high considering the population," said one dealer.

On Saturday, the UAE is due to ban cigarettes with more than 12 milligrammes of tar and 0.8 milligrammes of nicotine. Boxes of more than 20 cigarettes will also be banned.

The GCC plans a hefty 50 per cent tariff on cigarettes and tobacco imports, a ban on advertising in official media and health warnings.

Saif Khalaf, a director at the

UAE economy and trade ministry, said traders must get rid of stocks, before the ban takes effect.

"The period given to us to dispose of the available quantities is too short and will cause large losses," said Ahmad Jawad, sales manager at Marlboro's UAE agent.

"We have large stocks and already put orders with the factory in the United States, let alone shipments on their way by sea," he said.

Dealers said they had asked the UAE to postpone the ban but ministry officials declined to say whether they would do so.

Dealers have also urged U.S. and British factories to lower tar and nicotine levels urgently.

"They have to do it or they could lose a lucrative market," said Jawad.

The main potential threat to traditional suppliers comes from Japanese brands, which have not so far been a success in the region because the Gulf smoker likes a throat-grating nicotine injection. Most mild Japanese tobacco is within the new limits, dealers said.

Authorities hope the campaign will cut the number of smokers but, while in the short-term companies could lose money, many smokers think that in the long-run it will not make much difference.

"Smokers will get used to the new tar and nicotine levels," said a Rothmans dealer.

An average packet of 20 cigarettes now costs the equivalent of \$1 but dealers said that even a hefty price increase might not be enough to dissuade many smokers in the high-income GCC.

Row erupts between Canada, U.S.

OTTAWA (AP) — Trade Minister John Crosbie announced Thursday that Canada will impose trade sanctions against the United States in retaliation for a U.S. oil import tax that has been ruled discrimination under world trade rules.

The action was seen as an escalation of a U.S.-Canadian dispute over Canadian fish export regulations.

Crosbie said in a statement that Canada has lost patience with U.S. failure to comply with a 1987 ruling by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) that the so-called "superfund oil tax," a tax imposed to help pay for environmental protection, violates world trade rules.

The move came two days after U.S. trade representative Carla Hills said the United States will retaliate against regulations that protect Canada's west coast bearing — and salmon-processing industry.

"I would call it a tit-for-tat move," said one U.S. official, who spoke on the condition of not being identified.

Spokeswoman Danielle Ayotte of the External Affairs Department, however, denied any linkage between the disputes. She said no decision has been made on what U.S. products may be affected by sanctions.

She said the oil dispute came up when Hills and Crosbie met in Washington last month, but that there was no movement on the U.S. side.

"It has been going on for a long time. I think we have been very patient," she said.

Ayotte said Canada had no option but to seek formal authority from GATT to remove U.S. trading privileges. The sanctions probably would comprise tariffs or quotas on U.S. products. It could take months before they could go into effect.

Crosbie expressed hope that Washington would act before that happened, saying, "our preference is that the United States remove this discriminatory tax. We are not interested in retaliatory action for its own sake."

But a U.S. official, also insisting on anonymity, said Canada is irritated that Washington acted to retaliate against Canadian fish

products without approval by the Geneva-based, 96-nation GATT organisation, and could be out to teach the United States a lesson. Crosbie chided the Americans

Wednesday for acting under U.S. trade law before getting approval from GATT.

The United States imposed the oil tax in 1986.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, March 30, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	405.0 410.3
Pound Sterling	907.4	918.4	Dutch guilder	252.3 255.1
Deutschemark	284.4	287.2	Swedish crown	83.5 84.4
Swiss franc	326.3	330.0	Italian lire (for 100)	36.8 39.1
French franc	84.3	85.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	135.9 137.4

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	March 25-29 March	18-22
Daily average	JD 835,025	JD 802,404
Total volume	JD 4,175,125	JD 4,012,018
Total shares	2,878,059	2,383,056
No. of contracts	3,165	3,169

Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD: 2,843,134 (68.1%)	JD 2,430,742 (60.6%)
Financial	JD 797,320 (29.9%)	JD 1,197,981 (29.9%)
Service	(7.3%)	(7.3%)
Insurance	(5.5%)	(2.2%)
Share price index	126.0	126.7
No. of companies	64	64
Price movement (rise)	19	34
(decline)	31	18
(stable)	14	12

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6880/90	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1935/45	Canadian dollar	
	1.8920/30	Deutschemark	
	2.1325/35	Dutch guilders	
	1.6582/87	Swiss francs	
	39.60/63	Belgian francs	
	6.3900/50	French francs	
	1387/1388	Italian lire	
	132.55/65	Japanese yen	
	6.4250/300	Swedish crowns	
	6.8740/90	Norwegian crowns	
	7.3600/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	382.25/382.75	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices slipped on gloom about the interest rate outlook and depressed base metal prices. The All Ordinaries index lost 9.3 to 1,457.7.

TOKYO — Prices closed mixed but the Nikkei index firmed to a record high for a third successive day. Dealers attributed this largely to window dressing on the financial year's final session. The index rose 12.55 to 32,838.68.

HONG KONG — Good company results triggered a technical rebound from Thursday's losses. The Hang Seng index gained 24.22 to 3,004.98.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed generally higher with gainers leading losers by 107 to 72 after active trading, dealers said. The Straits Times industrial index lost 1.02 points to 1,189.78.

BOMBAY — Share prices held selective gains at the close after a mid-session rally was cut short by rumours the exchange might impose curbs on trading, brokers said.

FRANKFURT — Shares rose as investors slowly returned to the market after sluggish trading activity earlier in the week. The 30-share real-time DAX index closed up 7.91 points at 1,322.66.

ZURICH — Share prices closed slightly higher in cautious trading with big Swiss institutional investors largely absent from the market. The all share index rose 2.8 to 997.3.

PARIS — Share prices ended higher, supported by firm blue chips, but dealers said the market was hesitant ahead of the weekend's IMF/EC meeting. The 30-share bourse indicator ended 0.59 cent up.

LONDON — Share prices were at the day's highs in moderately active late afternoon business, supported by a firmer tone on Wall Street. By 1541 GMT, the FTSE index was 253.3 up at 2,074.7.

NEW YORK — Strength in airlines and blue chips led the broad market higher in morning trade, aided by buy programmes. The Dow was up 12 at 2293.

U.N. weighs global bankruptcy law

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations has suggested that the continuing debt crisis might cause states to seek protection from their creditors through an international bankruptcy law.

A report by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar noted that bankruptcy in private industry was seen "not as a challenge to business norms but as an integral and necessary part of on-going commercial activity."

The question followed, the 33-page report said, "could the international community, by analogy, develop an international law of bankruptcy for sovereign states?"

The document reviewed the role of transnational banks in global commerce.

Many of the building blocks for an international bankruptcy system have already been assembled, including the collective experience of rescheduling negotiations for bank loans and "Paris Club"

debt, the U.N. report said.

"No one should minimise the difficulty of reaching agreement on equitable rules that would enable sovereign states to seek protection from their creditors under the aegis of an international law of bankruptcy," the report said.

"However, with the debt crisis unabated, it may be opportune for debtors and creditors alike to look again at this possibility."

"A practical approach that short-cuts the long-term process involved in the setting up of new institutional mechanism would be to address the debt question as though an international law of bankruptcy were in effect."

"Under this approach, a debtor country, like a bankrupt corporation or a financially strapped municipality, would formulate its

restructuring and development plans as though it had been granted relief from creditors.

"Working backwards from realistic growth targets, a multi-year operating and financing plan including sectoral goals, export growth, necessary investments, etc., would be prepared by the debtor country with whatever assistance it required."

The report said the plan could be reviewed by a committee from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"Once approved, the plan, including new capital needs and a long-term adjusted schedule for repayment of existing debt and interest, would be presented to the creditor banks as well as the World Bank, IMF and regional development banks," the United Nations said.

Queen Noor presents trophy to JTF player

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Thursday attended training exercises in tennis performed by students enrolled in a training programme organised by the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) at Al Hussein Youth City. JTF President Dr. Daoud Hanania delivered a speech on this occasion, thanking the Queen for supporting the game and noting that the JTF had embarked on a plan to develop and improve the game. After watching the training exercises, Queen Noor presented a gift to one of the players.

Syria, S. Arabia tie 0-0

LATTAKIA (AP) — Syria and Saudi Arabia tied 0-0 in a World Cup West Asia group 2 qualifying playoff in this north Syrian port city Thursday.

Saudi Arabia won the first game against Syria 5-4 on March 15.

More than 50,000 soccer fans packed Assad stadium to watch the two Arab teams battling for advancement into the next round.

The game was characterised by fierce attacks and counter-attacks but neither side managed to score. The referees extended the game eight minutes to make up for time lost by delaying tactics employed by the Saudi players in the second half.

Namibia ends isolation

WINDHOEK, Namibia (AP) — An Angolan soccer team will play a match here Sunday, ending Namibia's prolonged sports isolation from black Africa, organisers announced Wednesday.

The match is to take place in Windhoek a day after the formal start of the United Nations-monitored transition process that will bring independence to Namibia by early 1990 after being ruled by South Africa since World War II.

As a South African territory, Namibia has been subject to the same international sports boycotts that are imposed on South Africa because of its racial segregation policies. But the prospect of independence and black-majority rule for Namibia already has had an impact.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND DIMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 6 ♠ A ♠ K ♠ A ♠ K ♠ J ♠ 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—You have an enormous hand, but it's not quite good enough to drive the hand to game—after all, partner might have a yarrowbough with four low hearts. To advise partner of your powerhouse in support of hearts, cue-bid two spades and leave the driving to him.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 6 ♠ A ♠ K ♠ J ♠ 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—In the modern style, two diamonds does not promise a stopper, let alone a suit. However, it does guarantee another bid, so you need do no more than bid two hearts to see how partner reacts. If you still play that two diamonds is natural, jump to three no trump to show your power.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 6 ♠ A ♠ K ♠ J ♠ 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—We hope you didn't bid three no trump. Partner had the opportunity to do so with a diamond stopper, but he did not take it. However, he must have at least a six-card suit, more likely even a seven-bagger. Bid four spades.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 6 ♠ A ♠ K ♠ J ♠ 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—In theory, partner should have some 8-10 points for his response, but after an overall in spades, he could be a point or so light. However, this is not a hand for point-counters. Bid three no trump. At best, it will be laydown; at worst, it could depend on finding the queen of clubs.

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

De Savary issues challenge to New Zealand

LONDON (R) — British businessman Peter De Savary issued congratulations and an immediate challenge on Wednesday to the New Zealand syndicate awarded the 1988 America's Cup by New York's Supreme Court. De Savary, whose own challenge for the yachting trophy was ruled out by the court last year, said in a statement: "Please accept our congratulations on the outcome of the court case. We look forward to relieving you of the cup in the forthcoming challenge."

Kenya probes missing athlete fees

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenya's Amateur Athletic Association is probing the reported loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars won by the country's world-class middle- and long-distance runners. Appearance and prize money due the athletes was supposed to have gone into a trust fund administered by the association — a fund that apparently never was established. The International Amateur Athletic Federation requires member associations to set up trust funds for their athletes, with monies to be paid to the performers after their retirement from amateur sports. Apparently at the centre of the closed-door investigation is Robert Ouko, who was suspended as secretary of the Kenya Athletic Association last November along with the organisation's treasurer.

Player may appeal against 'baby fine'

LONDON (R) — An English first division soccer player who walked out on his team and attended the birth of his son was considering Friday whether to continue his fight over a \$2,200 fine. Queen's Park Rangers midfielder Martin Allen was fined two weeks' wages by manager Trevor Francis earlier this month. The fine was reduced on appeal by half Thursday by a football league commission. But Allen has said he may seek a further hearing to make Francis explain why he imposed the fine. Allen received a call from his wife at 3 a.m. on the day of the Newcastle match to say she was worried about the impending birth. He immediately left Newcastle to be at her side in London.

Bulgarian banned for life after dope test

VIENNA (R) — A Bulgarian weightlifter has been barred for life after being positively dope-tested in a random check carried out by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). The official Bulgarian News Agency (BTA) reported Wednesday the test had been carried out in February in the town of Sliven. Traces of an anabolic steroid had been found in a sample from Ivan Pashalov, 21, described as a hopeful for the 1992 Olympics. IWF officials carried out eight random tests in Bulgaria last month in accordance with new rules passed by the federation in November after last year's Olympics. Two Bulgarian weightlifters, Mitko Grablev and Angel Guenchov, gold medal winners in Seoul, were disqualified and forfeited their medals after testing positive. They were also later banned for two years by the IWF.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

YOUR HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good humored day sets the stage for light activities of a vicarious nature. This is a great time to focus on the rebirth of nature and getting your mind to it and get psyched up. ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) If you take something apart to see what it is, you can put it back together again. You have been expecting for a long time, possibly a lost item. Use tact when dealing with a repair person. TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) This is a good day to experiment if you are inclined to weave variety into your lifestyle. Affairs of the heart can be stimulating today. GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Spending can get out of hand. Send any nasty correspondence to the shredder and ignore it. Make comparisons when shopping. MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Slow and easy is the best approach to this day. Household commotion may influence the early part of the day. LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Take a direct and firm hand in dealing with sibling problems. Develop unity in relationships that affect family pleasures. VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Letting others know of your ambitions gives them a chance to help you. Lippy siblings may leave you short tempered. LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Initiating political, philosophical or religious discussions can lead to bad feelings. Hang out with people who understand and accept you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You get cosmic help if you start a morning. For best results, set your mind to it and get psyched up. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You connect with something you have been expecting for a long time, possibly a lost item. Use tact when dealing with a repair person. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Call a truce when you are in the middle of a so-called battle. Surprise circumstances bring more fun and excitement than you planned. AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A romantic gift can lead to a provocative situation when it is time to forgive and forget. Shop for luxury items. PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Sibling demands are hard to handle. Friends are important to you, and a goodbye is a sensitive issue. An understanding mate helps you.

Frenchman's lone coast to coast bid fails gallantly

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A Frenchman's exhausting effort to beat a month-old sailing record fell just hours short Thursday as a tired, hungry and bloody Philippe Monnet steered his battered trimaran toward the Golden Gate after 80 days and 14,000 miles at sea.

Monnet lost his bid for the New York-to-San Francisco record after a series of heart-breaking setbacks, including a brush with a submerged iceberg off Cape Horn that cost him a week for repairs. Near the end, he had to battle 18-foot (5.5-metre) seas and capricious winds off the California coast.

But the 29-year-old sailor became the first person to sail the route alone, said Oliver Lanusse-Cazale, Monnet's contact in San Francisco.

"That is a consolation," Lanusse-Cazale said. He went out in a powerboat just after sunrise to greet Monnet and his crippled ship.

Early Thursday, Lanusse-Cazale conceded Monnet had been defeated by a combination of bad luck and bad weather and predicted he would arrive at the Golden Gate by noon. He needed to arrive by 7:34 a.m. (15:34 GMT) to snap the mark set Feb. 12 by the sloop Thursday's child, which took 80 days and 20 hours port to port.

But at noon (2000 GMT), a helicopter hired by backers of the effort spotted Monnet still 30 miles (48 kilometres) south of the city, and his arrival time was pushed back by four to five hours.

"It's too much, the bad luck I've had," Monnet radioed supporters in San Francisco on Wednesday from his 60-foot (18-metre) Elle Et Vire. "I will struggle on."

In addition to his collision with an iceberg, Monnet's hands and arms were slashed Monday after the main wire supporting his mast snapped off the coast of Southern California. Monnet had to climb the mast and spend hours cutting the tangled sail away and repairing the vital cable.

His last-ditch effort to break the mark kept him awake for four days straight, and he jetisoned food three days ago to lighten the load and squeeze another knot or two out of his hard-pressed boat.

Michael Fortenbaugh, representing the Manhattan Yacht Club, which put up the Clipper Challenge Cup trophy for the record attempt, said that missing the record doesn't diminish Monnet's achievement.

"It's sad and all (that he missed the record), but he is the first person to do it singlehanded," said Fortenbaugh. "His achievement is not dimmed one bit."

Fortenbaugh said plans still call for Monnet to catch the first available plane east to New York and then to Paris. The ship will remain behind, on view for the tourists.

International Players Women's Semis

Sabatini struggles through

KEY BISCAINE (R) — Top-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina advanced to the final of the \$2.1 million International Players Tennis Championships Thursday with a grueling 6-7 (2-7), 6-3, 6-4 win over Helena Sukova.

Sukova, the third seed from Czechoslovakia, battled for two hours and 20 minutes in 120 degrees (49 degrees centigrade) of wilting heat on the court before succumbing to a series of unforced errors on her own serve in the last game.

Sabatini advanced to Saturday's final where she will face the winner of the all-American semifinal between second-seeded Chris Evert and fifth-seeded Zina Garrison.

Sabatini, who lives just a mile away from the Key Biscayne tennis centre, fell behind 3-1 in the opening set to a barrage of big serves and angled volleys by Sukova but used her heavy top-spin groundstrokes to pull even as the Czech opted to stay in the backcourt.

Sabatini missed a set point at 5-4 with Sukova serving, and at 6-6 the set went into a tiebreaker. Sukova quickly built up a 4-0 lead and won it 7-2 with a lob.

The players exchanged breaks early in the second set, but at 3-3, it was Sabatini who decided to attack the net,

breaking Sukova with a forehand volley and then again to take the set 6-3.

Sabatini frittered away a 3-1 lead in the third set as the temperature on the court rose, but it was Sukova who crumbled, dropping her own service again at 5-4 with a series of unforced errors to give away the match.

"Maybe I was a little bit nervous and in the tiebreaker I didn't concentrate, I didn't do anything," Sabatini said of her slow start. "When I finished the first set, I felt better, I was a little more loose."

"It was mostly that I handled it the wrong way from the beginning of that game," said Sukova of her play in the last game. "She played better towards the end but maybe it was also that I let her play better."

Straight sets

Earlier Yannick Noah and Kevin Curren used dominating serves for straight-set wins in the quarterfinals of the international players championships.

Noah, seeded 12th, beat unseeded Carl Uwe-Steeb of West Germany, 6-4, 6-1, 6-4. Curren, seeded 13th, ousted no. 11 Emilio Sanchez, 6-3, 6-1, 6-4.

Noah's semifinals match

Friday will be against no. 7 Thomas Muster, who beat Jim Grabb of the United States 7-5, 7-6 (8-6), 1-6, 6-0. Grabb, at no. 172, was the lowest-ranked player ever to reach the quarterfinals of this tournament.

Curren will face the winner of Wednesday night's match between top-ranked Ivan Lendl and 10th-seeded Aaron Krickstein.

Noah had gone five sets in his previous three matches but needed less than two hours to beat Steeb, who beat third-seeded Andre Agassi in the first round.

Noah, whose big serve and accurate drop shots had Steeb stumbling about, began to dominate late in the second set, when he won the final 10 points. During one stretch to four Noah service games, Steeb managed only one point — on a double fault. Noah had nine aces.

Noah has reached the quarterfinals in each of this tournament's five years, but he has never played in the finals.

Curren trailed 3-2 in the first set of his match but won the next seven games. Curren had eight aces, won all 13 of his service games and reached the semifinals of a two-week tournament for the first time since he lost in the Wimbledon finals in 1985.

Chinese dominate first round

DORTMUND, West Germany (AP) — A mixture of rookies and veterans helped China dominate the men's preliminaries while the United States women won a showdown with Poland Thursday to advance to the next round at the World Table Tennis Championships.

Korea and Yugoslavia also clinched berths, although there is still one day left in men's opening round action.

The women completed their first round-robin play and passed the 16 teams to the next phase, including the top seed China and the United States.

Americans Insook Bhusan and Diana Gec had tight matches against Poland as both came into the final opening-round match with 2-0 records. Whoever won

would advance. Bhusan edged Elisabeta Gracsek, 24-22, 22-20. Gec beat Eva Brzezinska-Janik, 21-18, 21-15.

Then the Americans paired to down the Polish duo, 21-17, 21-18, to win a spot in the next round, grouped with South Korea, Japan and Taiwan. The top two teams from that bracket advance to the quarterfinals.

In the men's competition, the Chinese coach, Xu Shaofa, wasn't surprised with the advancement of his team, although he shuffled his lineup. "I thought the team played up to expectations," Xu said. "I wanted to play Ma Wenge and Yn Shentong to let them get used to the atmosphere of a world championships."

Both of the players are just 20 and in their first world event. Ma was the only Chinese player to give up a set, dropping one to Roberto Casares of Spain in the second match Wednesday.

"He was a little nervous at first but he adjusted well," Xu said. Jiang Jialiang, the two-time world singles champion, played just one match, and doubles champion, Chen Longcan, contested two matches.

China, South Korea, Hungary and the Netherlands are seeded at the top of each of the four second-round groups in the women's play.

The Chinese women posted two victories Thursday win three matches without a set being taken from them.

S. Diego debate yielding cup

SAN DIEGO (R) — The America's Cup sat in a clubhouse vault Wednesday while San Diego Yacht Club officials debated whether to appeal against the order to give up sailing's most prestigious trophy.

San Diego commodore Pat Goddard said if the club decided to file an appeal, it would keep the trophy until all legal proceedings were completed, which could take more than a year. The next races are due to be held in 1991.

If the club decided not to

curry Bay Boating Club.

San Diego yacht club officials were expected to decide within a few days whether to appeal against the order to give up sailing's most prestigious trophy.

San Diego commodore Pat Goddard said if the club decided to file an appeal, it would keep the trophy until all legal proceedings were completed, which could take more than a year. The next races are due to be held in 1991.

appeal, Goddard said he would deliver the cup to his Mercury Bay counterpart.

"If the cup goes back to New Zealand, then the commodore of the San Diego Yacht Club will personally deliver it to Commodore (Toby) Markham," Goddard said.

Gerry Driscoll, chairman of the America's Cup committee and a veteran of several America's Cup campaigns, blamed the Sail America Foundation.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

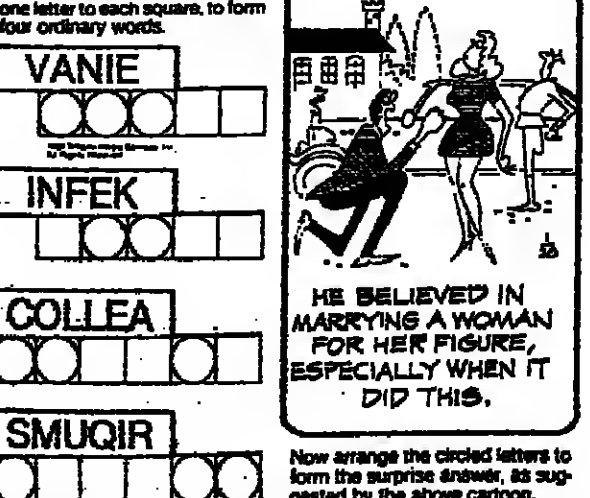
By Harris



JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

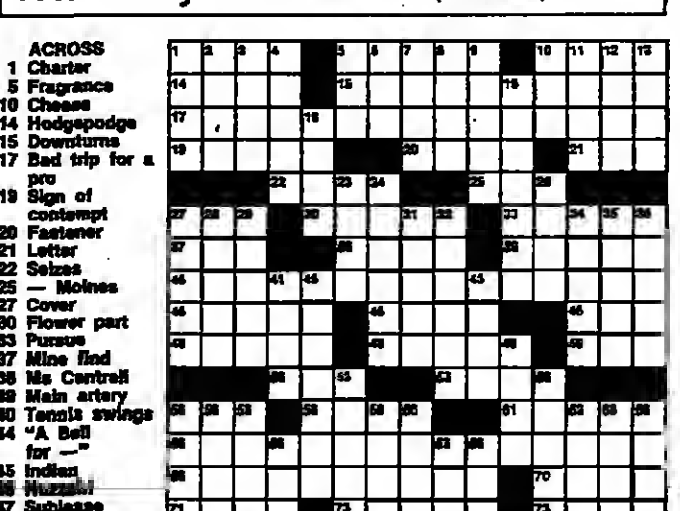
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answers: VANIE, INFEK, COLLEA, SMUQIR. (Answers Monday)

THE Daily Crossword

by Frank Beary



ACROSS
1 Character
5 Fragrance
10 Cheese
14 Hedgepodge
15 Determination
17 Bad trip for a pro
19 Sign of contempt
20 Fastener
21 Letter
22 Setback
23 Moles
24 Core
25 Flower part
33 Pursue
37 Mine field
38 Me Control
39 Main artery
40 Tennis swings
44 "A Ball"
45 Indian
46 Huzzah!
47 Sublease
48 Fishing aids
50 Nourishment
51 Aztec and Aztec
52 Lapse
53 Snare
54 Mild apology
55 Ladd and Alca
56 Nizak e.g.
57 Secluded in a way
70 First name in films
71 Dispatched
72 Wories
73 Pierce

DOWN
1 Fishes
2 Dash
3 Pleasant fare
4 Vices, their
5 Book flax
7 Publisher
8 Adolph
9 Encourager
10 As clear
11 Storage place
12 Radix
13 Concerning
14 Abstract being
15 Cocktail
16 Snare
17 Lapse
18 Stop the flow
19 Scare away
20 Rounded in a way
21 Maslin
22 Transfer picture
23 Planist Watts
24 Some beams
25 the
26 Memorial tablet
27 Lapsed
28 Lapsed
29 Lapsed
30 Lapsed
31 Lapsed
32 Lapsed
33 Lapsed
34 Lapsed
35 Lapsed
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54 Lapsed
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56 Lapsed
57 Lapsed
58 Lapsed
59 Burns
60 Carlin
61 were (in a manner of speaking)
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67 Lapsed
68 Lapsed
69 Lapsed
70 Lapsed
71 Lapsed
72 Lapsed
73 Lapsed

Namibians cheer U.N. force

WINDHOEK (R) — Women in coloured skirts and bonnets and tribal horsemen joined thousands of Namibians Friday in an enthusiastic welcome for a portly Finnish bureaucrat who will oversee the country's independence from South Africa.

Martti Ahtissari, special representative of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Peres de Cuellar, pledged that his mission would act with absolute impartiality when it starts its monitoring operation Saturday.

"We fully appreciate that South Africa has made an equally solemn commitment to a totally even-handed approach to all the people of Namibia," he told a news conference at Windhoek airport.

"Namibia has truly been a wound in the side of Africa. But it also has a very special place in the hearts and minds of the whole

world," he added. Ahtissari, who heads the U.N. Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), was greeted formally on the tarmac by Pretoria's top official in the colony, administrator-general Louis Pienaar.

But outside the heavily-guarded airport perimeter, thousands of Namibians, some of whom had walked for hours, cheered his arrival on a scheduled flight from Europe.

Many of the women in the mainly black crowd wore traditional dress of long, colourful skirts and huge bow-shaped bonnets, while a posse of more than

100 Namibian horsemen saluted as Ahtissari's motorcade left the terminal for the 45-kilometre drive into town.

The main UNTAG task is to monitor Namibian general elections scheduled for November. Pienaar, the man entrusted with supervising Pretoria's year-long decolonisation process, said he hoped the poll would be "free from the scourge of violent intimidation."

"South Africa and the United Nations share a common purpose in this," he said.

UNTAG, a force of 4,650 peacekeeping troops and hundreds of police and civilians from more than 50 countries, has been set up under U.N. Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978.

Under a peace agreement signed last December, South Africa agreed to give up the

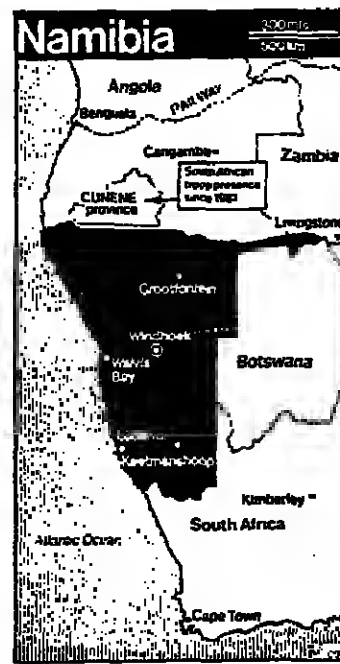
world's highest remaining dependent territory in exchange for the withdrawal of 50,000 Cuban troops from neighbouring Angola.

Angola invited the Cubans to help defend the border against an alleged threat of invasion from South Africa.

The governments of Pretoria, Luanda and Havana also pledged in the agreement to respect a ceasefire in the guerrilla hush war between Pretoria's troops and the Angolan-supported South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), and to exchange political prisoners.

As a goodwill gesture, the three signatories were Friday due to carry out an exchange of prisoners-of-war at the remote north Namibian settlement of Ruacana.

Namibia has been swept with



independence fever as the Saturday deadline approaches for the start of UNTAG operations.

Serbs urged to settle in Kosovo

BELGRADE (R) — Serbia is offering homes and jobs with double pay to Serbs who settle in Kosovo in an apparent attempt to undermine the ethnic Albanian majority in the riot-torn province.

At least 22 Albanian demonstrators and two policemen died in the past week during violent protests against constitutional changes limiting Kosovo's autonomy within Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic.

The curbs, promoted by Serbian Communist Party leader Slobodan Milosevic, were to permit a crackdown on alleged Albanian nationalists whom Serbia accuses of driving 30,000 Serbs from their homes in Kosovo since 1981 separatist riots.

The Serbian population in Kosovo has fallen this century from over 400,000 to 200,000 while the Kosovo Albanians, with their high birth rate, now number 1.7 million.

The province, hit by the worst ethnic bloodshed since World War II, has remained calm for three days, with police and armoured cars still patrolling and troops going on exercise in a show of strength. But a strict curfew is in force.

Community offices in towns throughout Serbia this week sent out application forms, asking people interested in living in Kosovo to list their family and professional details.

"This has been organised at the

level of the republic," said an official at a district community office which distributed the forms in the Belgrade district of Senjak. Television and local radio also broadcast details of the scheme, offering salaries twice as high as in other parts of Serbia and guaranteed apartments, big incentives in a country with galloping inflation and a severe housing shortage.

The application form, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, was headed: "for persons and family members who are not in Kosovo but who would like to live and work in Kosovo."

It said applicants would be interviewed in the coming two months.

"The purpose is to identify people who used to live in Kosovo and want to go back or those who want to live there for the first time," said Toma Dejeranovic, a spokesman for Serbia's Urban Planning Committee.

Kosovo is Yugoslavia's poorest area, with 36 per cent unemployment and monthly pay averaging \$100.

Its population density and birth rates are the highest in the country. Fertile farmland is limited, causing rivalry between Serbian and Albanian peasants for the best soil.

Both Serbs and Albanians leave Kosovo in the thousands every year in search of prosperity.

New York Times, Washington Post share Pulitzer

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times and the Washington Post shared the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting announced Thursday, while the Anchorage Daily News won the public service prize for reporting about problems facing Alaska natives.

In the arts category, "The Heidi Chronicles," Wendy Wasserstein's play about one woman's voyage from the 1960s to the 1980s, won the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The prize for fiction went to Anne Tyler's "Breathing Lessons," and the award for general non-fiction went to "A Bright Shimmering Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam," by Neil Sheehan.

The prestigious yearly awards for outstanding work in journalism and the arts by Americans were endowed by the late publisher, Joseph Pulitzer. First given in 1917, they are awarded by the trustees of Columbia University in New York on the recommendation of the Pulitzer board.

The board awarded two prizes in the category of international reporting. One went to Glenn Frankel of the Washington Post for reporting from Israel and the Middle East; the other went to Bill Keller of the

New York Times for coverage of the Soviet Union.

Frankel, in occupied Jerusalem, told the AP he was very surprised and honoured at winning the prestigious prize.

Frankel said the 15-month uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories has been a "very dramatic" story.

"I've tried very hard to keep the story on human terms, keep it about people on the ground and how it affects them, not just the generals in the army but Palestinians of all varieties and the Israelis who have to serve (in the territories)," Frankel said.

Israelis already have seized

on the prize as proof that Israel is an open and democratic society with freedom of the press, Frankel said. But he pointed out that one of his stories selected for the Pulitzer nomination was about Israel's assassination last April in Tunis of Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Khalil Wazir, known by his nom de guerre Abu Jihad.

The government temporarily suspended Frankel's press card after the article was published because he failed to submit it to military censorship.

David Zucchino of the Philadelphia Inquirer won the feature writing prize for his series

"Being Black in South Africa." Each of the Pulitzers carries a \$3,000 prize, except for public service, which is recognised with a gold medal.

Two history prizes were awarded, to "Parting The Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63," by Taylor Branch, and to "Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era," by James M. McPherson.

The biography prize was won by the late Richard Ellmann for "Oscar Wilde," Richard Wilbur's "New and Collected Poems" won the poetry prize, while Roger Reynolds' "Whispers" Out of Time" won for music.

Guatemala prison siege ends

GUATEMALA CITY (Agencies) — Police searched Guatemala's El Pavo prison for weapons and possible victims Friday after inmates ended a five-day siege and freed nearly 600 hostages.

Interior Minister Roberto Valle Valdivia, the government's special attorney general for human rights, and three representatives of an estimated 100 rebel inmates signed the accord a day after authorities cut off food, water and electricity to the overcrowded prison.

The visitors — mostly friends and relatives of inmates held up in the prison since the siege began — were released Thursday after the inmates and government negotiators reached an agreement ending the violent takeover.

Police said 571 visitors had left the maximum security jail 16 kilometres southeast of Guatemala City. Prison officials had earlier put the number at 575. The prisoners took over the jail after the failed escape attempt during visiting hours Sunday. Some of the visitors said they stayed there during the siege to protect their relatives, but others said they were held against their will and threatened by armed prisoners.

More than 60 visitors and 128



inmates managed to escape during the takeover.

After all the visitors were taken to hospital for treatment for shock and dehydration, police rounded up prisoners on the jail's soccer field and started searching installations with dogs trained to sniff out explosives, weapons and drugs.

Prison officials said seven people — four prisoners and three guards killed in a shootout Sunday — had been accounted for but it was possible other victims would be found inside the jail.

Police said inmates surrendered more than 60 rifles as part of the accord ending the takeover but they wanted to ensure that all weapons had been turned in and that prisoners had not mined or planted bombs in any parts of the jail.

Prison spokesman Conrado Morayro said 61 carbines were handed over by the rebels, according to the AP.

Mass riot hits S. Korea after police storm shipyard

SEOUL (AP) — Thousands of workers and students armed with rocks and firebombs battled riot police Friday in seven cities in protests against a police action that ended a prolonged strike at South Korea's largest shipyard.

The Hyundai Heavy Industries in Ulsan, 250 kilometres south-east of Seoul, reopened Friday and about 4,000 police were deployed in and around the sprawling shipyard to prevent further violence.

Hyundai officials said 70 per cent of its 22,000-person workforce was back on the job.

About 14,000 riot police, assisted by helicopters spewing tear gas, stormed the shipyard before dawn Thursday, arresting 697 strikers and ending the 109-day strike in which some 400 people had been injured since Dec. 12.

The police intervention touched off a wave of protests by radical students and sympathisers who accused the government of suppressing the labour movement and protecting conglomerates at the cost of workers.

A major clash broke out Friday near the shipyard and in the streets of downtown Ulsan where

3,000 workers and radical students armed with rocks and firebombs battled police firing tear gas.

News reports and witnesses said the protesters set fire to five cars and attacked three police substations in the centre of Ulsan.

About 1,000 protesters also demonstrated at Hyundai Heavy Machinery Company, a Hyundai subsidiary in Ulsan. They tossed rocks and firebombs into the company compound, setting fire to two buses and destroying 30 cars, according to the South Korean news agency Yonhap.

Valdez captain gets fired

VALDEZ, Alaska (AP) — The captain of the tanker that caused the United States' largest oil spill is out of a job because a federal investigation showed he was intoxicated beyond the legal limit after his ship ran aground.

Captain Joseph Hazelwood was fired Thursday for violating company rules that ban alcohol on its ships, said Exxon Shipping Company Incorporated President Frank Iarossi.

Hazelwood was the skipper of the 300 metre Exxon Valdez, but he was not on the bridge March 24 when the ship hit a reef one

kilometre outside normal shipping lanes. A third mate was at the wheel, despite being unqualified to guide the ship.

The ensuing spill left a 1,550-square-kilometre slick on Prince William Sound, one of Alaska's most pristine and scenic marine areas.

"We are all extremely disappointed and outraged that an officer in such a critical position could have jeopardised his ship, his crew and the environment through such actions," Iarossi said.

Coast guard Commandant

Paul Yost, one of three senior officials who made a fact-finding trip to the spill site, said it was "almost unbelievable" that the ship strayed outside a 16-kilometre-wide shipping lane to run aground.

"This was not a treacherous area, not treacherous in the area where they ran aground," Yost said in Washington Thursday. "Your children could drive a tanker up through it."

A blood test administered more than nine hours after the accident showed Hazelwood had a blood-alcohol level of 0.061.

'Halley's comet not from our system'

CANBERRA (R) — Halley's comet, the intriguing bright celestial mass seen from Earth every 75 to 76 years, may have come from another solar system, scientists said Friday.

"We have evidence that the make-up of Halley's comet differs from all other substances in our solar system," Bruce Peterson, an astronomer at Australia's Mount Stromlo Observatory, told Reuters.

Peterson said Halley's comet, a

reflective mass of gases million of kilometres long, may have been formed elsewhere in the galaxy billions of years after our solar system was formed.

Using a telescope at Mount Stromlo, near Canberra, the scientists measured the carbon ratios of the comet by studying a spectrum of the chemical cyanogen evaporating from the comet's surface.

They discovered that two forms of the element carbon, design-

nated as carbon 12 and carbon 13, were at a ratio of 35 to one in Halley's comet.

The ratio of carbon 12 to carbon 13 in all other solar objects which have ever been examined is virtually a constant 89 to one, Peterson said.

"Halley's comet might have formed elsewhere in the Milky Way galaxy, billions of years after the galaxies were frozen in our own solar system," Peterson said.

"Halley's comet may have

come close enough for our sun to gravitationally capture Halley's comet from outside the solar system," he said.

The scientist said the theory is plausible because Halley's comet orbits in the opposite direction from almost all other solar objects.

A second theory is that Halley's comet may have received less carbon 12 by being in a "distant region" of the gas cloud from which our solar system was formed 4.6 billion years ago.

The gas cloud may have been contaminated by carbon 12 from an exploding star and our solar system — nine known planets plus moons, asteroid and comets — would have condensed from the carbon 12 enriched gas cloud, Peterson said.

Peterson said he believed the second theory was the less plausible explanation.

Halley's comet was named after the 17th century British astronomer Edmond Halley,

'And the Oscars go to' Rain Man, Hoffman and Foster

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rain Man, the story of a coniving car salesman who learns to love his autistic brother, won the Academy Award as Best Picture Wednesday night and brought top honours for actor Dustin Hoffman and director Barry Levinson. Jodie Foster, the victim of a gang rape in the Accused, was named Best Actress.

Rain Man also brought an award to Ronald Bass and Barry Morrow for their original screenplay, bringing its total to four. Tying with three each were Dangerous Liaisons, the ornate drama of drawing room seduction in pre-revolutionary France and Who Framed Roger Rabbit, the brilliant combination of live action and animation.

Geena Davis, the free-spirited dog trainer in the

Accidental Tourist and Kevin Kline, the wild-eyed, over-sexed safecracker in A Fish Called Wanda, were surprise winners in supporting roles.

"Cruelty might be human and it might be cultural, but it's not acceptable, and that's what this movie is about," said Foster, a former child star who won her first award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

"I'm supposed to be jaded by this time, but I'm not," said Hoffman, who also won the award for Kramer Versus Kramer in 1979. He embraced loser Gene Hackman while on his way to the stage, where he basked in a standing ovation in tribute to his meticulously researched portrayal of an autistic.

"We tried to be as faithful as we could and be entertaining,"

said Levinson of the low-key Rain Man.

"First of all, I want to thank Anne Tyler for writing such a wonderful book," Davis said in accepting the first prize of the night at the academy's 61st awards ceremony. She has said she read Tyler's novel when it was first published and coveted the role.

The award to Davis drew yelps of approval from the audience of 6,500 in the Shrine Auditorium, possibly because the favourites appeared to have been Frances McDormand for Mississippi Burning and Sigourney Weaver for Working Girl.

"This is astonishing," said Kline, who also had not been considered a front-runner.

"Liaisons won Oscars for Christopher Hampton's adaptation of his play and for



Jody Foster in a scene from the film The Accused.

art direction and costume design. Roger Rabbit won for film editing, sound effects and visual effects.

The Milagro Beanfield War won for best score and Mississippi Burning for cinematography. Bird won the Oscar for best sound, and Beetlejuice for makeup.

Named best song of the year was Carly Simon's Let the River Run from Working Girl. The academy could find only

three songs to nominate this year instead of the usual five, and didn't see fit to have them performed during the show.

The year's best foreign-language film was Denmark's Pelle the Conqueror a grim tale about an exploited farmworker and his son.

With Wednesday's ceremonies, the Academy dropped the traditional line "the winner is ..." in favour of "and the Oscar goes to ..." using the



Dustin Hoffman

nickname the statues were have acquired. The intent was to soften the sense of competition.

Hollywood's annual tribute to itself, televised live, moved at its usual plodding pace and was burdened with heavy-handed production numbers. The industry relied heavily on nostalgia, recruiting as presenters such old-time partners as James Stewart and Kim Novak and Boh Hope and Lucille

Ball. The 1989 season followed a record year at the box office. More than 1 billion tickets were sold in 1988, with gross revenues of \$4.38 billion.

Producer Allan Carr promised an infusion of glamour for the awards show, whose viewer ratings have declined steeply over the years.

But the telecast opened with an embarrassing production number that included a Snow White character who talked like Betty Boop and accompanied actor Roh Lowe in a rendition of the rock song Proud Mary amid dancing nightclub tables.

Snow White troubles

Meanwhile Walt Disney Company filed suit Thursday against the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, alleging an unauthorized use of its Snow White character in what it called an unflattering opening number of the nationally televised awards ceremony.

COLUMN

Lobster escapes the claws of death

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) — A lobster who escaped the jaws of death when a woman could not bring herself to eat him has found a home at the Henry Doorly Zoo. The 10.9-kilogram crustacean called Clyde was the prize in a January supermarket promotion, but the contest winner decided against making a meal out of him and the Omaha Zoo took him temporarily. A special fund helped raise money to keep the lobster in Omaha. At one point, a man dressed as a lobster stood on a downtown street corner and asked for donations, and a radio station held a 28-hour fund-raising broadcast. Clyde was unveiled in his special \$6,300 saltwater tank Thursday. "Everything appears to be fine," aquarium supervisor Kathy Vires said. "He eats, he's active, he keeps his tail tucked. Those are all signs of a healthy lobster."

Mother uses son for burglaries

MOUNT HOLLY, New Jersey (AP) — A young mother used her three-year-old son to help burglarize homes, authorities say. Michelle Danner, 20, was charged with burglary, theft and endangering the welfare of a child. She was arraigned Wednesday and was jailed under \$10,000 bond, authorities said. Police said Danner, who was unemployed, lifted her toddler into the windows of at least four of the eight houses she burglarized so he could open a door for her. "Sometimes she would let him play in the yard while she was burglarizing the house," said Police Lieutenant Paul Taliano. "He didn't know what was going on." The state's Division of Youth and Family Services gave custody of the boy to his maternal grandparents.

Gondoliers dump trash on city hall

VENICE (R) — Tourists watched in amazement as Venice's Gondoliers dumped canal rubbish in front of the city hall Wednesday for the second time in 24 hours to protest against the city's squalid appearance. On Sunday, about 60 Gondoliers toured the city in 30 boats collecting bottles, cans, fast food containers and other debris from the canals. Thousands of tourists in Venice for the Easter weekend photographed the Gondoliers as they dumped the garbage in front of the council's offices at ca' Rossetti. "In recent months, we've made numerous appeals to the authorities (to clean up the city), but they've done nothing," said Antonio Scarpa, spokesman for the Gondoliers for Venice Group.

Man pays thousands for Thatcher's bag

LONDON (AP) — A British businessman paid £2,000 (\$3,460) for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's well-travelled handbag at a charity auction last week. Dave Schafer, who outbid several others at Capital Radio's Help a London Child Auction, said he plans to put the beige leather bag on display at his shop in east London. The handbag has travelled with Thatcher to the Middle East, Far East and Australia. It was on her arm when she visited royal navy ships in the Gulf last summer. "I was determined I was going to get the bag," he said. "It is a piece of history. It is a lot of money but it is all in a good cause." Not to be upstaged by Thatcher, opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock promised to brew tea for two and serve it with Welsh cakes baked by his wife, Glynis, in his House of Commons office.

The weather at major world capitals & cities

		MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	06	43	17	63 Clear
ATHENS	06	46	23	73 Clear
BAHRAIN	15	59	20	68 Clear
BANGKOK	28	79	34	93 Clear
Buenos Aires	15	51	23	74 Cloudy
CAIRO	12	54	24	75 Clear
CHICAGO	03	37	08	46 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	04	39	10	50 Cloudy
Frankfurt	07	45	24	75 Cloudy
Geneva	06	43	22	72 Clear
HONG KONG	21	70	25	77 Clear
ISTANBUL	09	45	16	61 Clear
LONDON	10	50	15	59 Clear
LOS ANGELES	13	55	28	79 Clear
MADRID	11	52	17	63 Rain
MECCA	17	53	84	93 Clear
MOSCOW	22	71	27	80 Cloudy
MONTREAL	02	28	04	39 Rain
MUMBAI	01	30	03	37 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	15	61	29	84 Clear
NEW YORK	05	41	07	44 Cloudy
PARIS	12	58	22	72 Clear
ROME	05	41	24	75 Clear
TOKYO	08	46	16	61 Rain
VIENNA	12	54	24	75 Clear